

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, July 24, 2014

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PAST PARTY TURNING CLOCK BACK TO WARTIME



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DEAN DOWN INJURIES HEADACHE FOR SMITH



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Busy rail bridge is to close for work

ANOTHER bridge needs to be rebuilt to cope with the electrification of a rail line through Walsall, and a warning of traffic misery a follow has been issued.

Network Rail needs to carry out work in North Street, near to the main Walsall College site, starting this autumn. The road will be closed to traffic during the work. The busy route is often jammed with cars heading towards the college campus and as a cut-through to and from Walsall town centre.

Work is expected to take until spring to complete and is part of the £30 million electrification of the Chase Line. Firm details of the start date and diversion routes are expected in the coming months.

Network Rail spokesman Jon Crampton said: "North Street bridge will be rebuilt to accommodate overhead line equipment used to power electric trains. A full road closure will be needed and a diversion will be put in place. Pedestrian access will be maintained over the railway throughout."

It comes as similar work was carried out on Broad Lane, between Bloxwich and Essington.

After electrification trains will speed up from 45mph to 70mph by 2017.

Jabez Cliff assets: £60k

ASSETS in historic saddle maker Jabez Cliff have been put up for sale for £60,000 after the firm collapsed with the loss of all jobs.

The 200-year-old company, maker of the world-renowned Barnsby saddles used by the Household Cavalry and members of the Royal Family, called in the administrators and made all 26 of its workers redundant.

A minimum offer for the 'intellectual property' of the firm was set at £60,000, with the deadline on Tuesday.

50,000 IN FREE BUS PASS FIGHT

MORE than 50,000 signatures have been collected by campaigners fighting to make sure bus services are kept free for all pensioners.

The national Love the Bus Pass signature petition is being led by Walsall Pensioners' Convention whose members fear for the future of concessionary bus travel, currently available throughout England.

They hope to raise 100,000 names for the petition, which will be handed in during a visit to Downing Street on September 10 with the help of veteran Walsall MP David Winnick.

The campaign has so far attracted 50,014 signatures on paper and the group aims to reach the target by the end of next month.

Campaign co-ordinator Richard Worrall said: "The petition is the first major step for this non-partisan campaign, which aims to get all major parties contesting the general election to pledge to retain the England bus pass as a universal entitlement free at the point of use."

He added that the campaign supported by the National Pensioners' Convention had attracted huge interest round the country. "Whilst all major parties pledged before the 2010

by Deborah Hardiman

general election to keep the pass, high-ranking coalition politicians soon started to call for 'reform' in 2011," he said.

Mr Worrall added: "Politicians of all parties need to understand that they attack the bus pass at their electoral peril."

Mr Worrall appealed for even more people to back the campaign to keep the concessionary pass, which was introduced in 2008.

"Please come forward again in numbers so that we can massively boost the total signatures over the coming weeks," he said.

Forms are available on 01922 448331, by post from 46 Winn House, Burrows Street, WS2 8NW, giving a name and address, or via email to richardworrall@yahoo.com or website www.lovethebuspass.den3.co.uk

Ellie heads campaign

ELLIE Simmonds is fronting a new campaign to get people swimming. The initiative from British Gas comes after a new study showed swimming increases sleep quality, energy levels and fitness.

The gold medalist from Aldridge features in a video giving her own swimming tips. The campaign is called SwimBritain and will take place in September with free instructor-led sessions. For further information on venues, how to sign up your team and get training plans and tips, visit swimbritain.co.uk.

Emotions run high for new vows



Betty and Derek Barnaby who marked their 60th anniversary by renewing their vows



The happy couple seen on their big day

ON July 18, 1954, Betty and Derek Barnaby vowed to love each other forever – through thick and thin.

And since then that is exactly what the couple have done. Fast forward 60 years from the day they took those vows, to the same date and venue, and the pair celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary by saying 'I do' for the second time.

The couple, both 85, renewed their wedding vows in front of dozens of family and friends at Rushall Church in Walsall as part of celebrations to mark their milestone.

Betty was escorted down the aisle by eldest son Stephen after the family arranged the ceremony. Daughter Linda said: "Dad broke down in tears when he saw mum and couldn't say his vows."

"I was sobbing, everyone was sobbing. It was really emotional. All of the 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren walked down the aisle."

The couple drove off for a sit-down meal with champagne at The Crown in Aldridge after the ceremony in a white Rolls Royce, and continued the party with an evening do at their local, The Farmer's Boy, in Rushall.

It was all very different to their original wedding in 1954 when they could not afford a reception.

Appeal on nursery closure is defeated

A NURSERY that was closed down by Ofsted after a worker failed to tell social services about bruises noticed on a child has lost its fight to re-open.

Catherine's Cross Nursery, in Darlaston, shut last year and was struck off the register by the education watchdog for a string of safeguarding failings.

The management was said to be poor and ineffectual, while inadequate learning and development opportunities were being offered to children at the Pinfold Street centre.

Operators Darlaston Community Association took the matter to an appeal heard at a First-Tier Tribunal. But the original decision has been upheld.

The hearing was told concerns were raised about the failure of a worker to report to social services bruises she had noticed on a child. The abused toddler was ultimately taken into care after suffering a serious assault by a family member.

Ofsted said the concerns were sufficient to justify removing the nursery from the register. Judge Melanie Plimmer told the tribunal that, if anything, the concerns raised then were even more valid now. No-one from the association was available for comment.

Safety boost with crossing

A NEW pedestrian crossing has been installed boosting safety on a route. The puffin crossing has been put in at High Road, Lane Head, Walsall, replacing a pelican crossing.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires said: "Have to say from a motorists point of view it's far more noticeable. There has been some good feedback already."

"The old pelican crossing developed a fault a couple of weekends ago which proved to be terminal."

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Guns amnesty launched by police

WEST Midlands Police has launched a guns amnesty following a law change that will see anyone found with a firearm risking life behind bars.

The new legislation, which came into effect last Monday increases the maximum jail term for illegal gun possession from 10 years to life – and that includes anyone who is storing a weapon for someone else.

The Home Office amendments also clamp down on antique firearms amid fears obsolete weapons are being made viable by criminals with ballistics know-how.

Anyone given a prison sentence, including suspended sentences, of three months or more is now banned from possessing this type of gun which could previously be held as a 'curiosity or ornament' with a relevant certificate. This means those who have them must now make arrangements to dispose of them and, to ensure none are dumped or fall into the wrong hands, the force will allow guns to be handed over at police stations.

The amnesty that includes handguns, rifles, BB guns, imitations, ammunition or antiques means people can do this without risk of prosecution until August 2. Gun crime has fallen dramatically over the last decade – offences fell from 24,000 nationally in 2003 to 8,135 in 2013 (according to ONS data) – whilst the number of fatal shootings in the West Midlands has also decreased. If you suspect anyone to be involved in illegal firearms call West Midlands Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Dangerous driver jailed after high speed chase

A MAN who led police on a high speed car chase, driving on the wrong side of the road and ramming the officers' car several times, has been jailed for 14 months.

Paul Mansell, aged 30, was also handed a two-year driving ban. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he was spotted by police driving a Rover at speed in Stephenson Avenue, Walsall on May 23.

Tributes as Tommy dies at 80



Comedian Tommy Mundon

BLACK Country comic Tommy Mundon has died aged 80 after a long battle against Parkinson's disease.

Tributes have poured in from the showbiz world including from fellow veteran comic Ken Dodd and Alan 'Aynuk' Smith who called him 'an ambassador for the Black Country'.

Mr Mundon, who was one of the stars of the Black Country Night Out, died Monday morning at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge, where he was receiving palliative care. He leaves wife of 42 years, Val, daughter Caroline and three grandchildren, Daniel, nine, Lucy, seven, and 18-month-old William.

Mr Mundon's son in law, Aaron Hickman, said: "The family have been left deeply saddened at his loss but at least he is now at peace."

The officers saw him at just before 1am.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said after the vehicle left a traffic island it was travelling at speeds of 60mph in a 30mph zone. Officers unsuccessfully attempted to stop the car.

The court heard that Mansell, of no fixed abode, then travelled around another traffic island the wrong way and on the wrong side of the road.

The court heard the car had been travelling in the region of 50mph and went through traffic lights on Green Lane when they were amber. The car, which then proceeded into Croft Street, stopped and reversed into the police car on several occasions, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Mr Jones said a decision was eventually taken to stop the pursuit, but he was tracked down by officers a short time later and arrested. He said a female officer, who had been in the car, had also suffered neck and back pain.

He said Mansell, who has pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and damaging property, gave no comment when interviewed by police. Mr Nigel Ford, mitigating, said the pursuit had taken place over a short distance and added: "The real puzzling matter is he was fully legal."

He was given 14 months for dangerous driving, and a month jail term running concurrently for damaging property, and will also be disqualified from driving for two years.

Boy on a high after flight



Nihal Tabassum with his mother Shazia and Twin Squirrel helicopter pilot Dan Hagan

THE last day of school before the summer holidays is always going to be a big occasion. But one pupil at a Streety school was the star attraction when he made a grand entrance in a helicopter.

Nahaal Tabassum, who has a rare genetic condition which requires him to use a wheelchair, was greeted by around 450 pupils and 50 members of staff when he landed on the sports ground at Lindens Primary School on Friday. His chance for a grand entrance to school in a helicopter

was granted by the Make A Wish Foundation. The 11-year-old, of Holden Crescent, Walsall, was nominated for the treat by a worker at the Hundred Acre Road school.

The youngster, who will be starting at Wilson Stuart School in Birmingham in September, travelled to Belfry Golf Club in Staffordshire with his mother Shazia Tabassum, aged 39, sister Mishaal Tabassum, 14, cousin Wakar Ali, 21, and Lindens Primary assistant headteacher Chrissie Grainger to catch the flight.

MP airs fears on divide in property

CONCERNS over the two-tier housing market between London and parts of the Black Country have been brought up in Parliament with the Governor of the Bank of England.

But the sluggish growth in house prices means more people will be given mortgages at rates they can afford, according to governor Mark Carney.

Pat McFadden cited an Express & Star story that showed average house prices in Bilston were still thousands of pounds less than they were in 2009, the worst year of the recession, while in London they have soared. The MP for Wolverhampton South East is on the Commons Treasury Committee.

Speaking to Bank of England governor Mr Carney, Mr McFadden said: "My local paper gave me some figures about house prices in a town called Bilston, that you may not have heard of, where house prices are £4,000 lower now than they were in 2009."

"The debate can look very different from outside London."

In Bilston an average home will change hands for £107,008, compared with £268,042 in Solihull.

Holiday fun on a biblical scale

STORIES from the Good Book, drama sketches and games will be all part of the fun when two churches throw open the doors for their annual summer holiday clubs.

St Matthew's Community Centre, in St Matthew's Close, Walsall, will host the activity club The Apprentice from August 4 to 8 with guests from Saltmine Theatre Company. It will cost £3 per day. Bookings can be made via 01922 626039 or via email on admin@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

Both programmes are for five to 11-year-olds.

Country walk

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be taking part in a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday. It will take place in Whitwell, near Corby, and is described as a 'moderate walk through villages'. Contact the walk leader for more information on 02476 366545.

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Call over behaviour in council meetings

LETTERS will be sent to councillors in Walsall reminding them to show respect to each other after meetings were made.

Six complaints were made about councillors in Walsall showing a lack of respect.

They were among 11 complaints that councillors had breached the code of conduct over the last year. In eight of the complaints no breach was found, and in three a resolution was agreed with the complainant.

A report by Tony Cox, the council's head of legal services, reveals six of the complaints were over councillors showing 'a lack of respect'. Four of those complaints were about 'member behaviour in committee meetings'. The report states: "In Walsall with the narrow numerical margins between the political groups there is probably more tension in council meetings, which has led to heated debate in the chamber over the last six months."

It adds: "It has to be remembered that council meetings are open to the public, apart from a few limited circumstances. It is therefore important that elected members maintain a high standard of behaviour."

British fun is on the streets

LIVE music and street entertainment is part of Willenhall's Best of British event this week.

The event takes place in the town centre from today, Thursday to Saturday.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for regeneration and transport, said: "We've arranged an amazing event for people to enjoy."

A traditional market, charity stalls, balloon modelling, children's rides and the Reach Up Tower and Move truck will all feature at the event. Willenhall's Carnival Queen will also be in attendance.

Trolleys freed up

MORRISONS has removed all its £1 coin trolley locks at its Wallows Lane store in response to Walsall customers' feedback, which has called for quicker and easier shopping trips. A team visited the store on 18 July to update all of the store's trolley fixtures.

Tributes are paid to popular journalist



Emma Farmer

A HUGE popular sub-editor who worked at the Express & Star for 16 years has died.

Emma Farmer, aged 45, most recently worked on the Wolverhampton Magazine, a sister publication to the E&S and was previously the newspaper's features editor.

She died on July 10 having been taken seriously ill suddenly the week before while fishing with her partner, Stan Talbot, 63, to mark her birthday.

Mr Talbot, of Hospital Road, Hammerwich, said: "She opened

her presents and we went up to Chorley Springs where we went fishing. She had just caught the biggest carp either of us had ever seen. She'd sometimes say 'come and help me with this' if it was a big one but this time she said she wasn't feeling well. Then she collapsed and that was that."

Miss Farmer had suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage - a type of stroke caused by bleeding on the surface of the brain.

She underwent emergency surgery but nothing more could be

done to save her. Mr Talbot, a builder, paid tribute to his partner of two years. He said: "Emma loved life and she loved people. She would always try to help her colleagues. She loved them as well; they were her friends."

Miss Farmer had been a keen athlete in her youth, competing in hurdling. She grew up in East Riding in Yorkshire, one of two daughters born to parents Colin and Pat. She joined the Express & Star in 1998,

having previously worked for the Press Association.

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "Emma was a hugely popular and talented member of the team and will be sadly missed."

Columnist Peter Rhodes, who worked with Emma for more than a decade, said: "She had an amazing eye for detail and was utterly dedicated to the job in hand."

"She had a wonderfully dry north country sense of humour."

The funeral will be at Streety Crematorium, tomorrow (Friday), at 11.15am followed by a wake at Redmore Inn in Cannock Wood.

Baseball bat thug sparks police swoop on village

COUNCILLORS will meet with police to discuss crime in Pelsall after a large number of officers swooped on the village to look for a suspect.

Worried residents called councillors after rumours circulated on social media sites that officers were searching for a man armed with either a gun or a baseball bat.

But West Midlands Police said they attended the scene after reports of criminal damage in the area in which cars were attacked.

Councillor Marco Longhi said: "Reports from residents indicated there was a firearm involved because they had heard it being used on Friday night. I take these kind of reports seriously and I have set up a meeting with police and other relevant agencies to discuss this. The police have said they were in the area because of somebody causing damage to cars and that is appalling."

Mr Longhi said he hopes the high police presence at around 8.30pm on Saturday will deter people from committing any more crimes and the people involved are apprehended.

Officers were assisted by a helicopter from Halfpenny Green. It is thought there were around 10 police cars sealing the area, including Ash Tree Road, High Street and Norbury Avenue.

Ward councillor Garry Perry was in Pelsall at the time and said: "I was in the village 10 minutes before the police arrived and I noticed car windows had been smashed in Wolverhampton Road. The area was a hive of activity from 8pm onwards and police were swarming the area. They were extremely quick to react and they cannot be faulted for their actions."

Organiser and music promoter James Morris said he wanted to celebrate young talent at the gig, after being inspired by Stephen Sutton's fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Walsall singer Tom Davis, aged 15, is also on the bill. More than 500 people are expected at the event, which is being held on the pub car park and is being given a festival atmosphere.

Tickets are £5 and are available from the pub or via the bands.

Lucy lends a hand for nostalgic party



Carnival queen Lucy Shepherd, aged 18, helps out with Doreen Hancock at the Bloxwich senior citizens party

WARTIME songs and laughter were ringing out as more than 260 residents at the annual Bloxwich Senior Citizens Party.

This year the event held at the town's leisure centre, in High Street, commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War.

To mark the anniversary the function hall was decorated from floor to ceiling with bunting, Union Flags and red, white and blue balloons. Guest entertainers were the 10-strong the Best of Friends band. The act featured

songs, costumes and comedy for the 261 seniors who attended the day that has become a popular feature on the town's social calendar.

The party is part of a series of events organised as part of Bloxwich Carnival. Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, of Bloxwich East, is a member of the party's organising committee.

"It's been absolutely superb and one of the best senior citizens' parties we've ever had. We gave recognition to all who have given their lives in conflict and we filled the hall with

bunting and flags. "We usually get about 250 turning up, but this year we more folks came. It was just a beautiful day. It was absolutely fantastic," Councillor Fitzpatrick added.

Volunteers on the day included the 196 Squadron of the Air Training Corps based in Great Wyrley along with Bloxwich Carnival Queen Lucy Shepherd, aged 18, the princess Naomi Morrall, 12, and rosebud Maisie Walton, 10. Bloxwich Carnival is on August 2 at King George V playing fields.

Main scheme to see roadworks

SIX weeks of roadworks began at the weekend because of a water main scheme.

A one way system was introduced in Caldmore, Walsall, from Sunday during the works.

It is being carried out in Weston Street, West Bromwich Street and Corporation Street on behalf of South Staffordshire Water.

The temporary traffic management will be in place on Weston Street, near to the junction with Collins Street and will run through to the Wednesday Road junction.

Charity to host big celebration

A CHILDREN'S charity holds a summer celebration at its shop in Bloxwich tomorrow, Friday.

The Children's Society, in High Street, will be hosting activities between 11am and 2pm. There will be face-painting, games and a fancy dress competition.

Regional fundraiser Hannah Noble said: "All money raised at events like these will enable us to give these children back their childhoods." Call 0300 303 7000 for more information.

Change over of service times

SUNDAY service times have this month changed at two Darlaston churches that share a vicar.

Worship at All Saints' Parish Church, in Walsall Road, has rolled forward one hour to 9.30am.

While the service at All Saints', in Church Street, Moxley, is now at 11am to allow their interim minister Rev Sue Weller to lead them.

Getting sporty for the summer

WEST Midlands Police is set to launch a summer sports programme across the Black Country for people aged between 14 and 25.

The Sportivate initiative will run for six weeks and includes boxing, dancing and sailing among other sports. For information visit www.facebook.com/wolverhamptonpolice

Road closure

A ROAD closure will be in place for carriageway resurfacing work. It is being carried out along Hospital Street in Walsall from next Monday to Friday. Restrictions will be in operation between 9am and 5pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IN theory, six penalty points for using a mobile phone while driving, as proposed by Whitehall last week, will be a huge deterrent. In real life, what sort of deterrent will it take to make the woman I saw the other day think twice? She was texting while driving – in a convertible with the hood down. Bold as brass which, strangely enough, was the colour of her hair.

AH, the wisdom of age. An 85-year-old granny in Brighton has become one of the oldest British drivers to be convicted, fined and banned for driving over the limit. Does she express remorse? Does she urge younger people to be warned by her example? Does she even apologise? Nah. Granny tells the world: "I can have one drink and it will have no effect on me whatsoever. I know what my limit is. I don't think I have done anything wrong." Honestly, the old people of today . . .

THANKS for your emails on things your moggies have dragged through the cat flap. Strangest so far are the "mole salad," which was delivered with a big bunch of grass, and a whole plaice.

WASN'T it pitiful, hearing the independence tendency on Any Questions (Radio 4) trying to convince Scots that if they voted to leave the UK, Whitehall would carry on awarding Royal Navy contracts to shipyards in Scotland, which would then be a foreign country? Can you really see any English political campaigning under the banner "British jobs for Scottish workers"?

I HATE to be a party-pooper amid all the champagne corks popping and tears of joy over the vote to appoint women bishops. But, seriously, does anyone believe that men would have surrendered the Church of England to women if it were worth holding on to? Throughout history men have loved power. That is why the institutions that really matter and have real power, Parliament, the law, the armed forces, the City and most professions, are still firmly in male control. The Church has been handed over to women because in a Godless age it is dying on its feet, utterly irrelevant and has about as much power and influence on society as Jackanory.



is the last dying gasp of a clapped-out organisation that has only a few years left. They know it. We know it.

BUT has anyone told the Devil? The General Synod has adopted a new form of baptism which makes no mention of him. This is frankly ungrateful. For centuries, the Devil was the Church's biggest fundraiser. Generations of our ancestors, frightened out of their skins, handed a tenth of their income over to the Church to save them from the Devil and his fiery domain. Now that the Church is admitting in effect that he never existed, can we have our money back? That's a few million groats and sovereigns, plus compound interest for, say, 1,000 years. A million quid for every citizen should just about cover it.

I HONESTLY don't know whether it's worthwhile, or even cost-effective, to spend millions of pounds of NHS money stapling up the stomachs of the obese. It just seems strange. The NHS is at its best when it prevents illness rather than dealing with the consequences. It has helped millions of people give up smoking or take blood-pressure medication before strokes or heart attacks occur. So where's the pro-active anti-obesity programme? It is hardly a mystery what causes this condition. Plague is transmitted by fleas. Colds are transmitted by a virus. Obesity is transmitted by chips.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Crime chief by-election bill is £3.7m

TAXPAYERS will foot a £3.7 million bill for holding a by-election to replace the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner who died last month.

The election on August 21 was called following the sudden death of commissioner Bob Jones at the age of 59. The cost has been condemned by shadow policing minister Jack Dromey who said the money could

have put 158 police officers on the beat. Police and crime commissioners were created in 2012 to replace police authorities, which were made up of councillors and lay members.

Mr Jones, who represented Labour, was elected with a turnout of just 12 per cent. Across the country the average turnout was just 15 per cent and politicians fear a worse turnout for a by-election in the summer holidays.

Legislation to create the role has been heavily criticised after it emerged following Mr Jones' death that authorities must hold a by-election within 35 working days of it being called by two members of the public.

Mr Dromey said the election was called by two people 'associated with UKIP' within three days of Mr Jones' passing away. He said:

"Theresa May's flawed legislation to impose Police and Crime Commissioners allowed two individuals associated with UKIP to trigger a by-election within days following (Bob Jones') death and before he was buried."

"Last week, the Government estimated the costs to be £300,000. The new Police Minister admitted the costs have soared to £3.7m."

Rewards for reports of fly-tipping unpaid

NOT a single reward has been paid to people reporting fly-tippers under a scheme which launched earlier this year to clean up the image of Walsall.

The council unveiled plans at the start of this year to offer £100 for members of the public who provide information leading to a prosecution, but local authority chiefs say rewards are yet to be handed out due to the lengthy legal process of bringing a case to court.

Walsall's environment chief Councillor Chris Towe said there were six prosecutions involving fly-tipping which the council would be bringing to court in the upcoming months which could lead to rewards being paid.

He said the trial incentive scheme that launched in January had also been extended in a bid to tackle fly-tipping, which has cost the council more than £345,000 in two years.

Councillor Towe said: "Since we launched our initiative to offer a £100 cash reward to report incidents of fly-tipping, to date none have been given out. That's not to say we haven't received any calls and tip-offs from the public on a regular basis.

"Fly-tipping blights the borough. Last year there were 3,389 incidents of fly-tipping in Walsall, equating to 1,695 tons of waste. The total cost of dealing with this was £206,311, money that is better spent on services for our residents.

Report by Lisa O'Brien

We urge people to continue report any incidents and assist us to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Earlier this month a fly-tipper had to pay more than £1,400 after being caught fly-tipping."

The council has received hundreds of calls to report fly-tipping since January, including 373 cases on private land. On top of that, the council's clean and green services department has also received reports of fly-tipping on council land.

Councillor Towe added: "The £100 reward is for people who are happy to take it through to a prosecution, which means making a statement or actually going to court. These cases take time to get to court but we have six cases which will go to court in the next few weeks and months."

Incidents of fly-tipping should be emailed to environmentalhealth@walsall.gov.uk or call 01922 653020.

Students visit orphans

A GROUP of sixth form students have travelled to Moldova to volunteer at orphanages. The teenagers from Barr Beacon School in Aldridge are currently in the capital of Chisinau. They have been raising money all year for the trip, organised with the charity The Moldova Project.

On their first day, half of the group they visited an orphanage full of disabled boys over the age of seven. The other half spent their day caring for children under five.

Emma Watson, who is project co-founder, said: "It has made everyone realise just how little time and interaction each child actually receives on a daily basis."

Head bows out of classroom



Retiring teacher Howard Morgan has a final cuppa with pupils, from left Jamie

A HEADTEACHER has been waving goodbye to staff and pupils after decades in the profession.

Among the long-serving heads to bid a fond farewell as the summer holidays get under way are Howard Morgan, who has spent almost 40 years at the same school in Willenhall.

A special assembly was held at Short Heath Junior to mark the 60-year-old's retirement from the school in Pennine Way on the final day of term, where he was presented with gifts.

Mr Morgan, who was originally from Bristol, has been at the school for 39 years, and saw hundreds of pupil's progress.

He said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I will miss the children and the staff. I have met some lovely people who I shall miss greatly."

Mr Morgan, now of Wednesfield, is married to Anne, a former teacher in Wolverhampton, and they have two children – Rebecca, aged 29, and Richard, 25.

Suspected migrant found on M6 bus

A SUSPECTED illegal immigrant was discovered hiding on a bus underneath the driver as he travelled along the M6.

The driver of the bus, which was travelling north on the motorway, called police after hearing noises below his seat.

The bus pulled up by junction 10 for Wolverhampton and Walsall and a teenager was discovered hiding in the subframe of the bus.

He was arrested and handed over to the immigration authority.

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said: "Police were called to junction 10 of the M6 by a bus driver who could hear noises from below his seat at around 10:20pm.

"An 18-year-old man was found hiding in the sub frame of the bus. He was arrested and handed over to immigration officials."

A witness passed the scene at around 10:30pm on Friday July 11. The 26-year-old, from Cannock and who asked not to be named, said: "I could see blue flashing lights and a black unmarked police car on the hard shoulder. As I drove closer I could see the police car was behind the coach and the coach had the word 'Aston' on the front of it.

MP's debate call over tax

PARLIAMENT should be given the chance to debate the bedroom tax after the Liberal Democrats said the controversial levy should be axed, according to an MP.

Now Walsall North Labour MP David Winnick said: "Labour has absolutely been opposed to the tax, and is pledged to do away with it if elected next May.

"A good number of my constituents have been hard hit and forced to pay additional rent, which often they can't afford, for having what is considered an extra room. "The bedroom tax is like the poll tax of the 1990s."

Blood donor plea

RESIDENTS in the Brownhills area will be able to give blood when a National Blood Service team comes to St James Parish Church, in Vicarage Road, Thursday. Sessions will be 1.30 to 3.30 and 4.30 to 7.30. They will also be at Aldridge Community Centre, on Friday.

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal made for charity walkers

HUNDREDS of fundraisers are expected to take part in a charity walk for a hospice on September 13.

Organisers are appealing for people to sign up for the Starlight Walk in aid of St Giles Hospice. Jody Bisseker, aged 32, of Streety, is taking part in memory of her father James Robinson, cared for by the hospice in Walsall before he died of cancer aged 57.

The walk starts at 7.30pm from the Aldridge Community Centre. To sign up online visit www.stgileshospice.com/starlightwalk

Apartment bids gets more time

EXTRA time is being sought for plans to build a dozen new apartments in the Black Country.

Planning permission to demolish an existing warehouse and construct two bedroom apartments on land between Leve Lane and John Street, Willenhall, was granted back in 2009.

The consent for the two to four storey block expired last month and an application to extend the time limit has been submitted with Walsall Council.

Road closures for water works

A ROAD closure will be in place during water main works. It is being carried out along Morris Avenue in Bentley, Walsall, and started last Friday.

Restrictions will be in operation between the junctions of Queen Elizabeth Avenue and Churchill Road. The scheme is being undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water and a road closure is expected until August 5.

Confirmation to be on the cards

ANGLICAN churches in Darlaston and Wednesbury will join forces for a confirmation service in autumn.

Worshippers new to the faith will attend a series of preparation meetings in the run up to the event on September 21.

The ceremony will be hosted by St Bartholomew's off High Bullen in Wednesbury at 6.30pm.

Pylon fall death

A MAN has died after falling 22ft from an electricity pylon. An investigation now been launched following the death of the 49-year-old from Walsall in Great Orton, near Carlisle in Cumbria.

UTC move welcomed by partner Siemens

A DECISION to relocate the Black Country UTC to a town centre site has been welcomed by one of its partners.

The Black Country University Technical College (UTC), which opened in September 2011, is to move to a former car repair shop next to Walsall College's £64 million Wisemore Campus.

The empty building will be refurbished as part of the £6m plans and an extension built to allow the school to cater for up to 480 pupils aged 14 to 19.

Up to 300 students are expected to make the move to the site, off Portland Street, from April 2016 after bosses said the current site in Vernon Way, Bloxwich, was too restrictive.

Brian Holliday, divisional director for Siemens Industry Sector, said: "Siemens is proud to be the major employer partner of the UTC."

"We believe the innovative teaching approach to engineering and science, combined with a state-of-the-art environment, will equip our students with the skills and attitudes to contribute to and excel in the world of work."

A planning application is due to be lodged later this year.

Music scheme helps 4,000

MORE than 4,000 schoolchildren and students have taken part in concerts backed by an arts centre over the summer term. Forest Arts Centre is home to Walsall's popular performing arts programme.

The Schools Music Support Service which lends instrument lessons is also based there and runs woodwind, brass and string ensembles at the Hushbush Road site.

Forest Arts Centre head of arts and events Mike Parrott said: "The music team are involved in many concerts in school settings."

Evening walk

AN evening walk is being held in Aldridge tonight, Thursday. The Walsall Group of the Ramblers sets off from Aldridge Parish Church in The Green at 7pm. The circular walk is three-and-a-half miles long, on field paths and lanes. For details call 01922 683672.

Police in major crackdown on paedophiles

TWO suspected paedophiles from Walsall are among 650 arrested across the UK as part of a major crackdown on sex crimes.

In total 41 of the alleged paedophiles are from the West Midlands.

The arrests have been welcomed by an MP who first raised concerns over widespread historical sex abuse.

Sandwell MP Tom Watson said the arrests were a sign of 'progress' in the country's attempt to deal with past abuse cases but called for more funding for the investigation.

The six-month operation led by the National Crime Agency targeted internet users who access child abuse images and has already led to charges for serious sexual assault.

West Midlands Police said that two people were arrested in Walsall as part of the operation.

Other arrests included eight in Sandwell, six in Dudley, two in Wolverhampton, one in Solihull, 15 in Birmingham and seven in Coventry. Of the 41 arrested across the

region, 39 are men and two are women. Nationally, the suspects include doctors, teachers, Scout leaders, care workers and former police officers.

West Midlands Police said the people arrested in the region had been spoken to on suspicion of possessing indecent images of children. One man has been charged with making an indecent image of a child and all the others arrested are on police bail while inquiries continue.

Among those arrested are people with

access to children through their jobs, who have had no previous contact with police.

Detective Superintendent Martin Hurcomb from the force's public protection unit, said: "The majority of those arrested were not previously known to law enforcement agencies, certainly in a child protection context; however – they are now, and they will stay in our sights. Details of how the suspects were tracked down are not being revealed as we want paedophiles to be uncertain about how we identify them."

Three year's jail for pub brawl man in deadly punch

A MAN who killed another with just one punch during a pub brawl has been jailed for three years.

Adam Lynn has been put behind bars for killing father Jonathan Woodhall during a fight in the beer garden of Great Barr pub the Deer's Leap on Good Friday. Drinkers at the Queslett Road bar described how Mr Woodhall tried separating his cousin and another man.

They were trading punches as Mr Woodhall stepped in, but he was knocked out by Lynn.

The 27-year-old victim from Tamworth suffered a serious brain injury and died the following day in hospital.

Detectives viewed CCTV footage of the fight and identified 24-year-old Lynn, of Kingstanding Road, Kingstanding, as responsible for delivering the fatal blow.

He was arrested the following evening from an address in Rippingille Road, Pheasey. He refused to answer questions during an interview, but at Birmingham Crown Court admitted manslaughter and was handed a sentence of three years in prison.

Mr Woodhall's family have since described him as 'happy, loyal and lovable'.

Investigating officer Detective Sergeant Ian Wilkins, said: "This is a tragic case where a dispute between two groups on a night out has changed the lives of two men forever –

by Alex Ross

one has died and the other has been jailed as a convicted killer.

"Anyone who throws a punch must understand that momentary loss of self-control can have a devastating, long-term impact for both themselves and their victim. There can be no excuses and, like Lynn, they must face the consequences."

The fight broke out at around 7.30pm on Good Friday between two men.

Minutes later Mr Woodhall was found slumped across a bench as onlookers put him in the recovery position and tried administering first aid.

Witnesses said the two main aggressors continued to fight while the victim lay fatally injured. Two other men, aged 24 and 27, both from Kingstanding, were also charged with public order offences in relation to the disorder and will trial on August 15 at Birmingham Magistrates Court.

Students in fundraiser

BUSINESS students have raised more than £1,000 for cancer charities after being inspired by fundraiser Stephen Sutton. As part of the business studies course at Walsall College a group of 40 students were split into groups to plan, manage and implement their own fundraising event. They managed to collect a total of £1,062.46 which was handed over to charity representatives from Macmillan Cancer Support and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Mother sheds half her body weight



A shadow of her former self, Jane Mason, of Wednesfield, who has lost 10 and a half stones in weight

BEING a cook meant Jane Mason didn't fancy going in the kitchen at home – often opting for eating takeaway meals in front of the television. But over the years her weight ballooned, and at her heaviest she tipped the scales at 22 stone.

It was watching a programme about obesity and realising that with her high blood pressure she was living on borrowed time that finally gave her the kickstart she needed. Less than two years later she has shed half her body weight, weighing in at 11 and a half stone.

Jane, aged 45, said: "I used to watch a lot of problems about obesity which got me thinking about my own health because I was the same size as some of these people on TV. I was knocking on diabetes door and I had high blood pressure so I started attending sessions once a week at

Weight Watchers in September 2012. At first I was a bit wary because I had tried various groups to shift the weight before and none of them had worked.

"At my heaviest I was really depressed and I hated myself but my leader Beverley Longson, was absolutely brilliant and she really boosted my confidence."

Miss Mason, who works as a cook at Burntwood Leisure Centre, used to live on takeaways of fish and chips and Chinese and convenience food such as frozen pizzas. But now she has turned her life around and enjoys eating fruit and vegetables, wholemeal bread and brown rice and pasta. She also exercises by going for a walk every day.

Miss Mason of March End Road in Wednesfield wants to lose a further half a stone before reaching her target weight.



Jane, before the weight loss

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

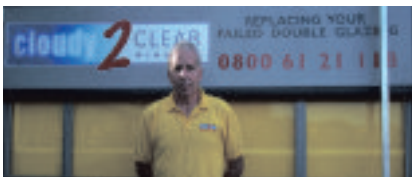
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IT seems rather sad that in the same month that we have celebrated all that is best about the Black Country, we also mourn the passing of one of the area's best loved sons.

Tommy Mundon was a true Black Country legend. One of the funniest men this area has ever known, he could turn the must humdrum of situations into one of his side-splitting monologues.

And while the likes of Bernard Manning went out of their way to shock audiences with their vulgarity, 'aer Tum' managed to make people laugh without ever uttering so much as a swear-word.

Despite the plethora of Liverpudlian, Mancunian and cockney comedians on our screens, television producers reckoned his humour would not travel outside of the Black Country, and this tells us all we need to know about the prejudices which outsiders continue to hold against this area.

That Tommy Mundon never managed to make it onto a national stage was a great injustice to a great man. But an even bigger injustice to those who were denied the opportunity to see him at work.

□□□

And while we're on the subject, here are a few words from the great man:

"I've just landed a new job working in a ladies' sauna. I have to go in every now and again and top up the water while all the ladies are in their naked, and then afterwards I have to give them a massage.

"And would you believe it, £350 a week! Still, I think I can afford it."

□□□

SOME infant school head-teachers have been complaining about how they are being forced to cut their teaching budgets because of a new Government ruling that all pupils, regardless of their parents' income, should be provided with free school meals up to the age of seven.

For a brief moment, I was almost sympathetic. Surely, schools are supposed to be places of learning, not free restaurants for middle-class kids?

And then one of these head-masters came out and explained what outbacks were having to be made.

Staff numbers? Textbooks? "We've had to cancel an order for some tablets we were supposed to be getting," he said.

Now, making the bold assumption that he is not referring to the first aid kit, this headmaster is bemoaning the fact he will not be able to blow his school budget on iPad-type mini-computers.

Here's a revolutionary idea, Sir. Forget spending thousands of pounds on hi-tech toys, and instead focus on teaching them to read and write properly.



John Prescott admires Len's military medals



Len Whitehouse as a young soldier in the war



Len addresses a Remembrance service at Tipton

The old soldier who never forgot

D-Day veteran was a man who did his duty. **MARK ANDREWS** looks back on the life of Len Whitehouse

A D-Day veteran who helped lay the first aircraft landing strip in Normandy has died on his 94th birthday.

Len Whitehouse, who lived in Bilston, died at Russells Hall Hospital following a short illness.

He was a 23-year-old driver serving with the Royal Army Service Corps when he landed on Gold Beach in Normandy at 8am on June 6, 1944.

Daughter Sue Cadman, aged 63, said her father drove a truck off his landing craft directly onto the beach as the invasion began.

"He always said he never even got his wheels wet," she said.

Mrs Cadman, who lives in South View Road, Sedgley, said her father had never talked about the war until he was taken on a surprise trip back to Normandy for his 80th birthday in 2000.

"We arranged a holiday where there was an option to go back to the beaches if he wanted to," she said.

"We were not sure whether he would, but he agreed and when he got there he opened up for the first time about it.

"It was very emotional, and after that he was very different, he opened up a lot more about it.

"He joined the Royal British Legion, and started going into schools telling the children about his experiences."

He returned to Normandy again for the 60th anniversary commemorations in 2004, and again in 2009 for the 65th anniversary.

In a recent interview, Mr Whitehouse recalled the sight of the bodies around him as he landed on the beach, and how he gave thanks for having made it to the shore alive. "Looking out to the sea and



Len would sell poppies or roses to celebrate St George's Day at Asda, Tipton

seeing the armada of ships is something that will stay with me forever," he said.

"I don't think you will see such a sight again.

"There were quite a few dead lads lying about and those memories will stay with me forever."

Fellow D-Day veteran Arthur Jones, aged 88, of Pendeford, Wolverhampton, met Mr Whitehouse around 10 years ago after they started giving talks at the former Alexandra High School, Tipton.

"He was a very nice man, we all enjoyed his company. He always seemed

to be a very gentle man, a quiet man, he was always friendly and nice to know.

"He has done his duty and he had a good innings."

JMr Whitehouse was born in Regent Street, Woodsetton, the youngest of five children. Prior to the war he had worked as a centre lathe turner at Beans Engineering in Tipton.

He met future wife Cath while walking along Owen Street, Tipton, with his friends, and romance blossomed at the the Jolly youth club which met at Bloomfield Methodist Church. They

married in 1941, the year before he was called up for military service.

Shortly before D-Day, he wrote to his wife, telling her that she may not hear from him for a while as he was unsure of what was about to happen.

On June 5 his company headed for Normandy, and Mr Whitehouse recalled his first sight was a sergeant who had been killed on the beach.

Mr Whitehouse came under fire as he drove across the beach and a shell pierced the fuel tank of his vehicle – two of his comrades were killed, but remarkably, there was no explosion.

After the war he returned to his trade as a centre lathe turner, joining Joseph Sankey, Bilston. He went on to work for Firth Cleveland engineering, Tipton, and Jack Nicholls on the Dormston Trading Estate, Upper Gornal, before retiring in 1992.

"He never took time off work, even when he almost lost the top of a finger in a machine accident," said his daughter.

Mr and Mrs Whitehouse also served as stewards at Hurst Hill Labour Club, Coseley in the 60sf, living on the premises, although he continued to work full time.

The couple were married for 68 years before Cath's death four years ago.

As well as daughter Sue and son Les, now 71, he also leaves three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson Harry.

Hilary Brown, extended school manager at Ace Academy, which replaced Alexander High, first met Mr Whitehouse in 2003 when she launched a veteran's club to foster relations between ex-servicemen and the youngsters.

She recalled how the children were enthralled by his stories about the war.

He was president of Tipton Royal British Legion, and became a familiar figure selling poppies at the town's Asda store. He met then deputy prime minister John Prescott during a visit to Tipton's Conegyre Community Centre in 2004.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

GEORGE Osborne's announcement that the £353 million 'super' hospital for the Black Country can finally go ahead is a big one.

The much-maligned Private Finance Initiative has been in for an overhaul. Now here comes the hospital courtesy of PF2 – a private finance scheme that's a little less, well, private.

The old system gave us schools, hospitals and more but came with a pretty hefty mortgage in terms of long-term, regular payments from the public purse. The new arrangement is meant to be smaller and simpler. But while it's all been drawn up, the long wait for the super hospital in Smethwick went on. And on. And it's not over.

It's still subject to a business case being approved and there won't even be spades in the ground before 2016. What it does give the Chancellor, and the Tory party for that matter, is something to talk about in the run-up to the General Election.

The announcement was made at Rowley Regis Hospital, which we are told is going to play a greater role once the new acute hospital a few miles away is up and running. It could have been made at Sandwell General or City Hospitals instead, I suppose.

But then they're in safe Labour seats whereas Rowley Regis is in a key marginal battleground that the Tories have to hold on to. I'm sure that's not the reason for doing it there, though.

Talking of George Osborne, here's a little insight into what goes on in the run-up to getting an interview.

These days, whenever any prominent politician from any party comes to town, the spin doctors like to gather reporters in a little room. At some point during the visit the politician is brought in to see the waiting media who are allowed to ask one, or maybe two, questions each.

Before they arrive, a spin doctor asks the reporters if they can 'maybe, agree on who is going to ask what so there's no doubling up'. They then ask to know exactly what questions we are going to give the politician so they can go and prepare them.

Part of me thinks it's good that if you're asking about a very local matter it's helpful if the politician knows the background to give an informed response. But the other part of me thinks it's a damned liberty.

Most Most high-ranking politicians, past and present, are fairly adept at dealing with the curve ball question. I'm sure Mr Osborne would have coped.

Michael Gove, long before his unceremonious dumping as Education Secretary, had not been briefed for a question in Wolverhampton about the alleged rift between the Tories and Lib Dems over free school meals. And yet he answered quickly, confidently and professionally. His spin doctors were furious.



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Article rakes up women priests row

AS an Anglican worshipping in a church unable to accept the ministry of women priests, I read your article about the Episcopal ordination of women with interest but with some regret that you appeared unable to find a single opponent of the innovation to interview.

I note with particular interest the interviews with priests from the adjacent parishes of Rushall and Pelsall, both enthusiasts for the innovation.

I attended the former church for about a decade, and both of the incumbents who

served the parish during that time – the late Fr Tom Simister and Fr Michael Leadbeater – were sufficiently concerned about the innovation to become Roman Catholics.

David Mawson – a layman at Rushall and leading light of the Campaign for Real Ale – was subsequently ordained and served as vicar of Pelsall. He too is now a Roman Catholic serving on the staff of Shrewsbury RC Cathedral. Enthusiasm for the purported ordination of women is perhaps not so universal as your interviewees imply.

A T HARRISON, Walsall

Querying a striking decision

YOUR leading article to-night seems to suggest that it's strange that only union members vote on whether a strike should take place. Like a golf club or a parochial church council meeting, a trade union restricts voting to members entitled to vote.

In the case of a vote to strike, the vote is further restricted to members who may be called upon to participate in the strike. That is a legal requirement imposed by surprise, surprise, a Tory government! When I was a union representative and felt that I should recommend to the members I represented that they go on strike, I obviously wanted the highest possible turnout.

A powerful mandate for a strike would make it less likely for a strike to be necessary once the employer saw the strength of feeling. The imposition of postal ballots both lowered turnout and increased the possibility for fraudulent voting. Needless to say, perhaps, that imposition was the work of a Tory government.

A HARRISON, Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Walsall.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

New appointment but same problem

COUNCILLOR Mike Bird, leader of Walsall Council, in a letter did ask for something nice to be written about Walsall, I will try!

A new position has been created, to try and deal with the number of schools in Walsall failing to meet Ofsted standards. Mrs Lynda Poole has been appointed as the assistant director of access and achievement to take on this challenge.

Questions immediately spring to mind. Why has it taken so long for Walsall Council to wake up to the situation of our failing schools which has existed for decades? Including reacting to John Prescott, back in 2000, by the council transferring control, very expensively to SERCO, still maintaining the same failed

administration staff, then to take control back again, following the same failings.

Why the fancy long-winded title and only 'the assistant'? Does this suggest she will be still hindered by the 'party-bound' council?

Surely with such an ingrained culture, it will require very firm, positive action to ensure those with the necessary capabilities will replace the incompetent administrators, teaching staff and governors. Congratulations in this appointment – the nice bit! – but, an admittance is needed by those that have contributed to the suffering of so many lives, for so long, by their irresponsible behaviour.

RAY HAMMOND
Alexandra Way
Aldridge

Benefiting the wrong families

I CANNOT believe what I have just witnessed on Channel 5's programme 'Benefit Britain: Life on the Dole'.

The two families featured, one Romanian the other Slovakian blatantly admitted that they are in Britain because it is so easy to claim benefit.

The Romanian scrounger even stated that he intended to make at least £40,000 in the next two years to send back home to Romania to build a house. He also stated that his pregnant 15-year-old daughter and her husband were due to arrive here.

Apart from this being under age sex they will be claiming their own benefits when the sprog arrives! What is wrong with our government?

I HUNTER
Willenhall

Thanks for accident aid

THROUGH the avenue of your paper I would like to thank the residents who helped me following my car accident on 27th June by Streets Corner.

People say that 'community spirit' is dead, but I say that it is very much alive and well in Brownhills.

I could not have coped with the aftermath of the accident were it not for the help and support of the local residents.

So please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone. I am healing albeit slowly.
MAJOR A FINCH
Walsall

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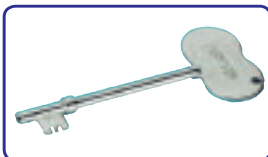
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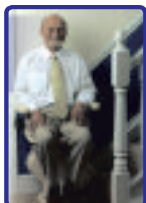
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New citizens fly the flag for special day

WAVING Union flags, singing the national anthem and pledging their allegiance to Queen and country, more than 40 people celebrated becoming British citizens.

A special gathering in Dudley last Monday, saw the first Black Country Citizenship Ceremony take place.

Normally each of the four boroughs host their own events to mark when foreign nationals have officially secured British citizenship, but the event was held to coincide with Black Country Day.

The Mayor and Mayoress from Sandwell, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Wolverhampton and the Deputy Mayor of Walsall joined applicants from across the four boroughs who were awarded their British citizen certificates during the ceremony at Dudley Town Hall.

Thirteen of those involved were from Wolverhampton, nine from Walsall, five from Sandwell and 14 from Dudley.

The new citizens originally hail from countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

O'Neil Lloyd Gayle, aged 38, moved from Jamaica in 1999. Now working as a postman in Great Barr he said: "I am very proud. It has helped me to confirm who I am as a person, it is more than just a certificate."

More than 100 friends and family members witnessed those gaining citizenship. Those taking part had to swear or affirm the Oath of Allegiance and pledge their loyalty to the United Kingdom. Each applicant received



British - Naria Bibi from Walsall



O'Neil Lloyd Gayle, from Walsall



Yixin Cleary, from Sandwell

their documentation from the Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands and had their picture taken next to a large framed picture of the Queen.

Once all the applicants had signed the commemorative citizenship register the ceremony was concluded with the National Anthem.



Empty Can perform at the ceremony

Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Derek Rowley said: "It is the first time we have organised a joint ceremony and Dudley was chosen to host this year. "The warmth and friendliness the applicants have shown has made it an honour to welcome them as British Citizens."

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Cut to the core as Apples salon opens



Salon staff Jess Coffey, left, and Joanne Sanders in the new salon Bad Apples, in Walsall town centre

A NEW hair salon has opened in Walsall creating seven jobs. Bad Apple Hair in Bridge Street is the brainchild of Aid Thomas, 34, and Gavin Mills, 30, who are both from the town.

The Walsall salon is their third after opening up in Birmingham in 2006 and then Sutton Coldfield.

It is hoped there will be further expansion to Solihull, Worcester and a franchise in Derby.

Mr Mills said: "We grew up in Walsall and are passionate about the town. We are also passionate about educa-

tion and bringing in local people. We are setting up partnerships with local colleges and organisations and want to really help those looking at getting on in the industry.

"We put the customer first and it has been a real success story and we probably the most popular salon in Birmingham and keep growing. It really is onwards and upwards for us. We are really proud to be able to grow and open up in Walsall.

"We want to help develop our stylists and eventually the idea is to help

them start their own franchise." Mr Mills added: "Our award-winning hairdressers are known for their passion and they are recognised for both impressive, classic cuts and creative, contemporary styles. We train hard. We stay ahead of the game. We endeavour to keep our relationships with clients as the key to our success.

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The 4th Battalion Worcester Regiment give a cheer



The 1/7th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment gather at Halesowen Station



A patriotic procession by horse and cart is held in Dudley



Civic reception at St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, for departing troops

Repercussions of war felt across the region

RAILWAY stations across the nation were bustling with activity.

Thousands of part-time soldiers departing for their annual camp jostled with day-trippers making the most of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Life continued as normal in towns and villages around Staffordshire and the Black Country. On Saturday, August 1, 1914, throngs of people lined the streets in many towns to cheer the Territorials on their way, some units travelling by train while others were marching to camp.

There was a particularly large turnout in Wolverhampton where the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps were setting off on an 85-mile march to St Asaph in North Wales.

The soldiers left their Drill Hall in Stafford Street just after 4pm. Also in the parade were Ambulance wagons, members of the Army Cyclist Corps and others. They rested in Tong in Shropshire, 10 miles away, that evening. Next night they had reached

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

Bletchley, near Market Drayton. But they would go no further. In the early hours, orders arrived to turn around and return to base.

The following day, Tuesday, August 4, at precisely 11pm, came the news that Britain was at war with Germany.

Already in St Asaph were around 920 men of the Walsall Territorials who had been given a hearty send-off on Sunday morning from the Drill Hall in Whitmore Street.

Also in Wales were 1,000 men of the 6th South Staffordshires, who had arrived that afternoon. Within 12 hours they were packing their kit bags and tents to return. The order had reached the camp at 2am. They arrived at Wolverhampton High Level station at 9.30am on Monday.

The Worcestershire Regiments, whose strongest corps was the 7th Battalion which included 240 men from

Dudley and 130 from Oldbury, were at camp in Minehead, Somerset when they were recalled.

With war looking ever likely, the Government had held talks with the main railway companies and arrangements put in place for a takeover by the State in the case of emergency. Many trains due to have been used for Bank Holiday Monday excursions had been commandeered for troops.

Call-up papers began to arrive at police stations across the region for officers who were Army and Naval reservists. The Territorials, so recently recalled from camp, were at their Drill Halls on Tuesday for medical inspections and exercises.

Recruitment posters and newspaper advertisements began to appear calling on men with specific trades to enlist and large crowds of young men besieged the recruiting office in Broad Street, Wolverhampton.

Britain was at war and from Bridgnorth to Brownhills, Stafford to Smethwick, the repercussions were already being felt.



The Walsall Territorials line-up in uniform at The Bridge in the town centre

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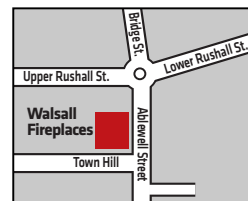
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Josefina realises dream to meet her fire rescuers

SHE was just minutes from death and has endured physical and mental injuries that would destroy many others.

But remarkable teenager Josefina Vilela's story is one of triumph over tragedy.

The 17-year-old from Walsall lost both her legs and her left hand, suffered 60 per cent burns and lost her father in the arson attack at her home in 2011. Her stepmother Georgina Vilela is now serving a minimum 23 years for murder and arson.

Blade runner hopeful Josefina, though, bears no malice to her stepmother and said she forgives her.

The youngster, who was 14 at the time, had to be rescued from the flames and last week thanked the firefighters who saved her during an emotional visit to Walsall Fire Station.

She had always wanted to meet the firefighters who saved her but her recovery – she spent 18 months in hospital and has had to learn to walk again using prosthetic legs – had to take priority.

Her sisters arranged a surprise visit to the station and her wish was realised when she came face to face with five of her rescuers.

Hugged

Overwhelmed by the emotion, she wept as she said: "I've been looking for you guys for so long. Thank you so much for saving my life. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have been here today. You're my true heroes."

The crew presented her with a bouquet of flowers and she hugged each one individually. Afterwards she said: "Coming here has meant the world to me."

"For three years I've been wanting to meet them and finally I've met my heroes. They are an incredible group of people who do their jobs so well."

Josefina, who lives in Chucky with sisters Maise, 24, and Carina, 16, said she had been able to overcome her catastrophic injuries with the support of



Josefina Vilela, with the flowers, visits Walsall Fire Station, with her sisters Mase and Carina and, back from left, crew commander Ollie Taylor, and firefighters Carl Warburton, Irvin Rudge, Rob Hamer, and Stu Ferguson

her 'amazing' family and team of carers from Pulse Community Healthcare in Walsall who visit daily. Despite the gap in her education, she passed five GCSEs and starts at Walsall College in September to study sport.

In just six years time she hopes to compete at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Her ambition was sparked after a trip with children from the burns unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital to the London Games in 2012.

As a pupil at Streetly Academy she competed at wheelchair basketball with the Wolverhampton Rhinos. As well as running, she also throws the javelin and swims.

She said: "I hope to start competing soon. I've just been tested for strength and the doctors have said I'm okay to do it."

"I won't be in time for Rio but 2020 definitely." Josefina also wants to develop her current role as a sports ambassador for the Black Country. I want to inspire children and show them there is light at the end of the tunnel despite their disabilities."

Firefighter Rob Hamer, who was one of the team who brought her out of the house in Pleck Road on that foggy March night, said: "It was one of the worst house fires I've been to."

"Josefina was wrapped in a duvet when we found her, you couldn't tell how bad her burns were at the time. Our main priority was to get her breathing again. She's made a fantastic recovery."

Firefighter Carl Warburton added: "We never get people coming back to thank us so this has been a bit overwhelming for us too."

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Psychic to delve into past at bar

SPIRITUALIST Philip Solomon is hosting a demonstration of clairvoyance later this month.

The Black Country psychic will hold the event in his home town of Willenhall on July 31. It will take place at Gilbert's Bar and Restaurant on Field Street, starting at 7.30pm.

The demonstration of clairvoyance will be followed by an awareness session, which will be based on people's past lives.

Mr Solomon is a regular on the region's radio airwaves, with his show on Wolverhampton Community Radio.

The Music and Memories show takes place every Monday night.

Tickets for the clairvoyance evening are £8 on the door.

Call Mr Solomon on 07753 211506 for more information.

Defibrillators will save lives

ALMOST £500,000 is being spent on new life-saving defibrillators by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The health trust will buy 300 defibrillators in total, to be situated in places where cardiac arrests are most common, such as nursing and care homes.

Acting emergency services director Nathan Hudson said: "We all know what a difference it can make. There is no doubt this project will save lives."

FOCUS ON WILLENHALL

Poundland to expand its range of Asher products

POUNDLAND'S exclusive Jane Asher bakeware range, launched two months ago, is being expanded with 35 new items following huge demand and outstanding initial sales.

It has been the Willenhall-based retailer's most popular and fastest-selling range to date. Since launching on April 16 across Poundland's 530 stores in the UK and Ireland, sales have almost reached double the predicted figures.

The businesswoman and Poundland worked closely together, with her listing the products she would like to include and then testing and writing recipes for every one, once the team at Poundland had sourced them.

They were then especially manufactured in Asher's pastel colours.

Baking

The range launched with more than 50 items, and the new items will be introduced on November 21 in time for Christmas.

Shoppers in south-west London have been particularly keen on the range as well as those in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, with stores in these areas comprising seven of the top 10 sales areas in the counties. Asher, well-known for her baking books and cake

By John Corser

company, said: "I've worked with many companies over the years and can honestly say that my time with Poundland has been the most enjoyable."

"I'm very proud of what we have achieved together and delighted that it's been such a success."

Poundland chief executive Jim McCarthy, said: "We are incredibly proud of the new bakeware range and our first celebrity partnership, and amazed and delighted by the amount of work Jane has put into it; it has been a phenomenal success."

"We had no doubt that this range would be popular but the reaction so far has exceeded all expectations."

"We're looking forward to launching the new lines just in time for people to get baking for Christmas."



Melanie Brandrick with Saad Imran, eight, Isabelle Fillingham, nine, Harkiran Kaur Johal, 11, Mason Brandrick, nine and Milana Peters, seven

Blooming great car park colour

CHILDREN from five schools have helped breathe life into a supermarket car park as part of the Willenhall In Bloom event.

New Invention Junior School, St Giles Church C of E School, Fibbersley Park Primary, Woodlands School and Barcroft Primary worked on a flowerbed each at the Morrisons car park.

The initiative was organised by the store's community champion Melanie Brandrick. She said: "We've had such a fantastic response. It's been great to see them come together. It was pretty drab and lifeless in the car park but colleagues and customers agree that this really brightens the site up."

The flowerbeds and plants have been sponsored by five local firms. To say thank you, Morrisons donated a range of garden tools to all children involved to help them tend their own school gardens.

Boost for Spar shop in scheme

A SHOP is to be given a revamp under plans lodged with Walsall planners that could create three jobs.

Blakenore Retail Limited has applied to revamp its Spar Convenience Store, in Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley. The plans include demolishing the existing store frontage and front and rear single-storey extensions.

A new shop front would be added and the car park would be improved. A report, submitted with a planning application, reads: "The existing Spar store experiences a high volume of trade, therefore improved facilities are greatly required. The new improved and larger store will also require additional staff and will therefore provide new employment opportunities."

A decision is due to be made in the upcoming months.

Beach party set for town

THE sights and sounds of a traditional British beach holiday are set to take over Willenhall.

The Best of British event will include Willenhall-by-the-Sea - featuring a giant sand pit, a boating pool with rowing boats and a fun slide. It takes place from today, Thursday to Saturday, between 10am and 4pm at Market Place in Willenhall. A number of other activities are arranged for tomorrow, including local bands.

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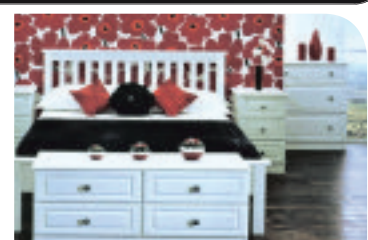
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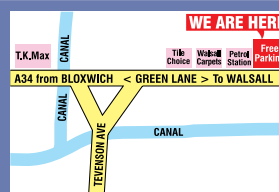
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Robber armed with BB gun is jailed



Luke Ireland – jailed for four years and nine months

THIS is the face of the armed robber who carried out a terrifying raid on two women as they walked down a street.

Luke Ireland was jailed for four years and nine months after pointing a BB gun at a woman and her pregnant daughter. He was later arrested after he plunged into a canal while trying to flee police and had to be fished out.

Ireland pounced as Diane Duggan and 19-year-old Kirsty Doughty were walking in the dark to Pelsall Labour Club at 9pm on March 29, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week. He took a bag containing £97 cash and a phone and fled when he spotted that his teenage victim was pregnant. Shortly afterwards police arrived to arrest Ireland at home over an unconnected matter, said Mr James. Ireland fled but his escape bid ended when he plunged into a canal and had to be helped out of the water by police officers. He then admitted the robbery.

The court heard Ireland, a father-of-one, from King George Crescent, Rushall, had taken drugs before committing the offence. He admitted robbery, attempted robbery, possession of an imitation firearm and assault.

Neighbours hope to get projects off the ground

A GARDENING group, fitness sessions and fishing club are some of the projects residents are getting off the ground to boost community spirit on their Walsall estate.

Tenants at Chuckery Tenant Management Organisation join in regular social events on the estate but many now want to develop even greater community roots and get more activities up and running.

The estate's newly-formed gardening club has got its first few members who have already started adding a splash of colour to flowerbeds but more people are needed to come forward.

by Simon Stone

from the tenants who want to pull together and share interests with their neighbours.

Chuckery TMO committee also would like to hear from people who want to get fit on group walks around the estate, tenants keen to join a fishing club or those wishing to get involved in internet workshops.

Interests

The successful sewing group Make Do and Mend is also hoping to swell its numbers as people get more involved in groups on the estate.

Chuckery TMO committee member Marilyn Bradbury said: "All of these ideas to get more clubs and activities going have come

from the tenants who want to pull together and share interests with their neighbours. "So many people from the neighbourhood had fun together at the Chuckery Festival last month and they are now keen to develop new hobbies and interests right on their doorstep."

Anyone from the Chuckery estate wanting to get involved in the new groups can contact Steph Rees on 01922 644456.



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MP attacks Tories over parties for financiers

AN MP has claimed the Conservatives are 'prostituting' themselves for holding social events with wealthy people in the run-up to the General Election.

Walsall North's David Winnick made the remarks on the floor of the House of Commons in the wake of a party held at a private member's club.

He said: "How many ministers have been involved in meetings and social events with some of the richest people in this country in order to raise cash? Must the Tory party always prostitute itself with an election looming? And the Tories have the impertinence to criticise trade unions."

Andrew Lansley, leader of the House of Commons, replied: "As far as I am aware, only one political donation in this country buys influence and that is the political donation made by the trade unions to the Labour party, with the £12.6m donated by Unite since Ed Miliband became leader."

"They are now demanding the appointment of a cabinet minister for trade unions, no less, whose purpose will be, they say, to bring home the bacon. Since they

by Daniel Wainwright

already decide the candidates for the Labour party, determine the policy of the Labour party and effectively control the leadership of the Labour party, that is some bacon - or perhaps I should say some bacon sandwich."

The remark was a dig at Mr Miliband being pictured struggling with a bacon sandwich in the run-up to the European elections. The debate came following a party at the private Hurlingham members' club in Fulham, west London.

The Tories have refused to reveal the guest list. The event, which attracted businessmen, lobbyists and financiers, saw a bottle of champagne signed by Margaret Thatcher auctioned off for £45,000.

Sailing through SATs at Rivers Primary

A big thumbs-up from youngsters at Rivers Primary Academy after Year 6 pupils' SATs success

YOUNGSTERS at Rivers Primary Academy in Walsall are celebrating their achievements after obtaining fantastic SAT results.

Pupils in Year 6 at the school in Mersey Road, Blakenall, were delighted when they received their results.

Deputy headteacher Andrea Goodson said that the children had "exceeded all expectations and performed brilliantly".

She added: "A whopping 92 per cent of the children achieved a level 4 or higher in reading (40 per cent at level 5) and a wonderful 80 per cent achieved level 4 or higher in maths."

"Even more impressive was that five children achieved Level 6 in maths."

Miss Goodson, who is also the Year 6 class teacher concluded: "The children have worked so hard this year, and I am delighted with the progress they have made."

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Dumped waste a 'drain on council's resources'

THE cost of cleaning up rubbish dumped across Walsall is a 'drain on resources', council chiefs have said.

More than £345,000 was spent on tackling fly-tipping around the borough during the last two years, figures have revealed.

The cash-strapped council which is being forced to save £85 million over the next four years has been forced to spend the cash moving the waste. The likes of bags of rubbish and commercial waste has been dumped on more than 5,000 occasions between the 2012-13 and 2013/14 financial years.

Environment chief councillor Chris Towe has condemned those responsible and vowed those who are found to be responsible will be brought before the courts. "It is a drain on our resources" he said.

"I can't understand why people do this, they can take it to recycling tips at Aldridge and Bloxwich. We have also got a scheme where people can pay a nominal fee for picking bulky items up. We shall continue to make sure people who do this continue to feel the full force of the legal powers we have."

Action has been taken to crackdown on the issue of fly-tipping and has seen covert cameras used to try and catch people in the act. Most recently a factory worker who dumped bin bags overflowing with rubbish and building materials in a country lane was ordered to pay more than £1,400 after appearing at court.

An off-duty police officer spotted Adrian Nencin tipping the controlled waste, which included ceramic tiles, plasterboard and plywood, out of his van in Skip Lane. The 25-year-old Romanian national, of Mary Road in Handsworth, Birmingham, admitted depositing waste without an environmental permit.

Anyone who witnesses fly-tipping taking place should call environmental health on 01922 653020 or email environmental-health@walsall.gov.uk.

Bash for best in baltis



From left, Mayor Pete Smith, Faisal Islam Choudhury, from the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs, Osman Shahed, TV chef Rustie Lee, Omar Shahed, Abdul Kaiyum and Wahid Ali, all from Stafford Balti Restaurant which picked up an award during the ceremony in Walsall

RESTAURANTS across the region were celebrated at an awards ceremony held at Walsall Town Hall.

Around 300 people attended The Guild Award of Excellence and Conference, organised by the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. Awards were given out to top class restaurants in the region. It comes after 4,000 nominations were received for the awards and they were short-listed to 100 finalists.

Secret diners were then sent to the restaurants and chose 20 winners. The quality of food, standard of websites and hygiene were all judged and one of the winners included Stafford Balti Restaurant.

Special guests attending the glittering event included the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Pet Smith and celebrity TV chef Rustie Lee.

The event raised around £700 for the mayor's charities.

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Eighth wonder Matty's
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Matty Keating with his award which he was given for a 100 per cent attendance record over eight years

THE last day of term is always one for tears and celebrations but at Holy Trinity C.E. Primary School they were celebrating the achievement of one Year Six boy in particular.

Matty Keating received a trophy for achieving 100 per cent attendance, which is quite an achievement, as the figure covers the whole time since he started eight years ago.

Matty has achieved the 100 per cent attendance record for each year since he started nursery in September 2006.

A spokesman for the school said: "A huge well done to Matty and it just proves that excellent attendance gives you excellent results as he will start Grammar school in September and has achieved higher than average SATs results.

"Matty is also a great sporting star and will be missed by all the staff and children at Holy Trinity."

Blind group in axed bus move offers free visits

A CHARITY supporting blind and partially-sighted people has pushed ahead with controversial plans to axe its minibus service despite a petition of 2,000 signatures.

But bosses at Walsall Society for the Blind said the service had now been replaced by Ring and Ride and day centre fees have also been axed which has led to an increase in visitors to social groups.

The charity had been running its two minibuses for the past 10 years but announced earlier this year that it intended to cut the door-to-door service this summer due to dwindling numbers attending the groups. The service was said to be costing the charity more than £34,000 a year.

But bosses have now said replacing it with the Ring and Ride service has led to users paying less on transport to and from the centre in Hatherton Road, where people can meet several times a week to make friends, play games and enjoy refreshments.

Amanda Reed, chief executive officer at Walsall Society for the Blind, said people had been paying a contribution of £6 a journey for transport under its minibus scheme but would now

by Lisa O'Brien

pay less with Ring and Ride.

She said the board of trustees had also made the social activity centre free of charge to help people who might have had to pay more for transport, and it had led to an increase in service users.

Ms Reed said: "It's sad that we couldn't keep our transport going but we have provided alternative transport through Ring and Ride. We have also increased our numbers by nine."

The charity, which supports more than 1,700 people in the borough, also offers befriending services and a talking newspaper produced on memory sticks.

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Work on JTF store to get under way soon

WORK on a new £1.5 million giant warehouse which will create 60 jobs is poised to start next month, ahead of opening by the end of the year.

The 44,000 sq ft JTF discount outlet is to take over empty units on the Bescot Retail Park in Walsall, and will be the first to open in the Black Country.

The company has 12 other branches in the UK and sells goods including clothing, furniture and DIY items. Walsall Council has already approved plans to combine and convert four empty units, including JJB and Toy-master, which closed down years ago.

JTF have now also asked the council for final permission to create a garden centre within the service yard as part of the scheme off Bescot Crescent, near to Walsall's Banks's Stadium. It is anticipated work on the new warehouse will start in August for completion around winter.

Matthew Gray, senior planner for the agents, said: "The overall appearance of the units has declined in the period in which they have been vacant. They are of poor visual quality and act as blight on the overall appearance of the retail park."

The company primarily sells larger items in multipacks at discounted rates. The branches usually stock everything from food and drink to toiletries, toys and electrical products and other stores in the Midlands are in Kidderminster and Tamworth.

The retail park has more than 680 parking spaces and other businesses which operate there include Matalan, McDonalds and Farmfoods. After the plans for the warehouse were approved earlier this year, Ben Copithorne from the development team said: "This is a great vote of confidence in



An artist's impression of the new JTF Store at Bescot Retail Park

Bescot Retail Park and a welcome boost for Walsall.

"With planning permission granted, we will now be able to complete the deal with JTF paving the way for £1.5m of investment and 60 new jobs. We have received a good deal of support from the community for the

plans." There were previous plans put forward for Aldi and Argos on the retail park site.

"But a planning inspector was forced to rule on the proposals in 2010 after the council put forward concerns they would have a negative impact on the town centre.

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WILLENHALL'S Ann Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

A young-at-heart 75-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment,"

she recalls. Recently she was fitted with implant-retained dentures, inspired by a newspaper article on Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic.

She says: "You don't realise how having bad teeth can affect you until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed. I could not have wished for better treatment. My care was first class and Steven has become like family to us."

Suction solution is this the answer for you?

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a frightening pace."

"In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry.

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is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference, but the Ultra Suction prosthetics offer yet another possibility.

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qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work. We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool' in our commitment to ever-try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations.

"Lower dentures can often be troublesome as stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion - it's all part of the ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, be a source of compromised chewing and embarrassment."

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

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John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing December 11



 **PRICE FROM £109**

The music of Christmas time would not be complete without that of renowned composer and conductor John Rutter.

This is a chance to join him as he brings together the beautiful voices of a special guest choir and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, to raise the roof of the Royal Albert Hall with a selection of Christmas carols, choral pieces and orchestral works.

Included is a side circle ticket for the afternoon performance of this classic festive favourite, which also includes numerous sing-along carols.

A visit to Hyde Park, in the heart of London, for the magical Winter Wonderland event is also part of the itinerary. Here there are live shows, fun fair rides and the largest outdoor ice rink in the capital.

Browse the gifts and crafts of the market stalls, which offer a refreshing alternative to the high street goods, and warm up with tasty seasonal treats.

Please note entry to the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is free, but there is a charge for some of the attractions including the ice rink and rides.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Ticket to John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall
- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Services to a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Paddy Power Gold Cup

Two days departing November 15

 **PRICE FROM £99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Best Mate enclosure
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in London

Two days departing December 19 and 20

 **PRICE FROM £185**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Seated ticket to see André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra at Wembley Arena (upgrade offered)
- Return coach transfers between the hotel and Wembley Arena
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing October 11

 **PRICE FROM £119***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

*Child price from £109 (conditions apply)
Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Walking for Softies in North Devon

Four days departing October 17

 **PRICE FROM £225**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Two fully guided walks in North Devon
- Visit to Barnstaple
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Buckingham Palace

Day trip departing September 21

 **PRICE FROM £59**

- Return coach travel
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace including the Royal Childhood exhibition
- Services of a tour driver

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Beamish and the North York Moors Railway

Four days departing October 10

 **PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Admission to Beamish – The Living Museum of the North
- Ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Tall Ships Regatta at Royal Greenwich

Two days departing September 6

 **PRICE FROM £99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Royal Greenwich for the Tall Ships Regatta
- Visit to Royal Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Three days departing September 26

 **PRICE FROM £179**

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Osborne House and Queen Victoria's private beach
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Lake Garda, Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates

 **PRICE FROM £599**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
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- Guided tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomite mountains
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Brussels

Three days departing November 14

 **PRICE FROM £274**

- Return coach and Channel crossings
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Seated ticket to see André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra at the new Palais 12 Arena in Brussels (upgrades offered)
- Return coach transfers to and from the concert venue
- Visit to Brussels
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates

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Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by RivieraTravel (ABTA V4744)



Dame Janet in South African play

ACCLAIMED Johannesburg-born actress Jane Suzman is appearing at Birmingham Rep alongside up-and-coming young South African actor Khayalethu Anthony in Solomon and Marion, written and directed by Lara Foot.

The production in the Rep Studio from October 16 to November 1 will pair Dame Janet, who was nominated for an Oscar in 1971 for her role as the Tsarina in Nicholas and Alexandra, with the 26-year-old actor who played a radical prisoner in Mandela biopic Long Walk to Freedom.

Set in South Africa as unrest precedes the 2010 World Cup, it charts the relationship between an elderly widow and the grandson of her former servant. Call 0121 236 4455.

Satellite rockers come in to land

PROGRESSIVE rock band Anathema will be playing Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on September 25.

The concert will come hot on the heels of the release of the Liverpool band's 10th studio album, Distant Satellites, which was launched this summer. Distant Satellites is a follow-up to the 2012 album Weather Systems and was recorded in Oslo. Tickets are priced £16.50.

Birmingham heavy metal veterans Jameson Raid will be playing their only UK date this year in Bilston.

The band, formed in 1975, play at the Robin 2 on November 24. Tickets in advance are £10.

Magical show puts spellbinding spin on much-loved tale of Oz

Wicked logistics on stage

BACK stage at a London West End hit, where the show remains in one venue for a long run, certainly takes some organisation but just imagine how complicated it is for a touring production which moves from city to city.

That is precisely what Anthony Field, the company manager for the 2014 UK tour of hit musical Wicked, faces on a regular basis. As Wicked takes up residence at Birmingham Hippodrome along with it comes no less than 12 HGVs full of all things green, to ensure audiences are treated to an amazing theatrical experience.

Sublime organisation is the key and at any one of the nine productions of Wicked currently running across the world, every item is placed in exactly the same spot backstage, thus ensuring that the resident stage crew is able to create as perfect a performance as possible.



Mean green machine — the Oz head from hit musical Wicked Photo: Christopher Davies

I WILL never be able to watch The Wizard of Oz in the same way again. Judy Garland and her pals can follow their Yellow Brick Road from here to eternity now, I feel deceived.

I always had a bit of sympathy for the Wicked Witch — she did find her sister squashed — but now I fully appreciate what a bad rap this scapegoat got.

My eyes have been opened thanks to the opening in Birmingham of Wicked, the untold stories of the witches of Oz. Judging by the reception from the Hippodrome crowd, there are a few more supporters in the Wicked Witch's green corner now.

Wicked is a captivating musical. It has all the magic (no pun intended) that you would expect from such a top-notch West End show.

There are some great hi-tech effects, choreography is superb and the costumes flamboyant. But it is also a clever story entwined with the Wizard of Oz that we know and love, reflecting the plot of the film yet ultimately leaving the audience distanced from the tale they thought they knew.

The star of the musical, Elphaba was played on press night by understudy Jemma Alexander — and what a performance she gave. She seamlessly transformed from 'freak' to heroine, winning the hearts of the audience with her grit yet obvious vulnerability.

A high point was her uplifting performance of Defying Gravity as she flew



Wicked's heroine Elphaba

above the stage. Emily Tierney put in a powerful performance as dizzy white witch Glinda who also undergoes a striking transformation of her own. The musical focuses on the relationship between Elphaba and Glinda. The two 'witches' were rightly rewarded with a standing ovation.

Wicked is spellbinding. An excellent cast, solid score and a thought-provoking story that makes you completely rethink the Wizard of Oz. Christmas viewing will never be the same. Runs until September 6.

Diane Davies

T.Rextasy born to boogie again

THOSE inspired by Marc Bolan musical 20th Century Boy, recently staged in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, can show that they were born to boogie again when top tribute act T.Rextasy Get It On at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday, August 23.

The corkscrew-haired groover, who would have been 67 this year had he survived a fatal car crash in 1977, is celebrated by amazing soundalike Daniel who has been playing the music of Bolan and T.Rex for more than 20 years. Get set for such classics as Metal Guru, Ride A White Swan, Hot Love and, of course, 20th Century Boy.

Tickets cost £12.50 in advance (call 01902 401211) or a £13.50 on the door.

Tim is to front the Jersey Boys

WEST End actor Tim Driesen has been cast as Frankie Valli in the touring production of hit musical Jersey Boys, which comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre during the festive season.

Driesen has been leading the cast in the Dutch production of the show and has also performed in Rock of Ages and Never Forget in the West End.

The story of the 1960s and 70s hitmakers The Four Seasons, recently made into a movie by director Clint Eastwood, makes its first Midlands appearance at Stoke Regent Theatre October 28 to November 8 before its Brum stint from December 9 to January 3.

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Jacques Peretti

The Men Who Made Us Spend (BBC2, 9.10pm)

Jacques Peretti visits American behavioural researchers who use their skills to help companies advertise goods to children, as he explores the history behind marketing products to younger consumers. He talks to a Nickelodeon executive who brought American-style kids' TV to the UK and also meets a car designer who promoted his vehicle to the children in the back seat. Jacques reveals how these techniques have been applied to adults, and explores the rise of computer gaming for grown-ups and chats to the people behind the Neopets craze. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Commonwealth Games. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Commonwealth Games. Live coverage of the mixed team triathlon relay. **3.00** Commonwealth Games. Continued coverage from Glasgow. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.45** Commonwealth Games. Further coverage on day three of the Games.

7.00 Commonwealth Games. Hazel Irvine and Gary Lineker introduce live coverage of this evening's swimming finals, which take place at Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow. The semi-finals in three events – the men's 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke, and women's 50m butterfly – are scheduled in the pool, along with seven finals, as the swimming timetable reaches the halfway point. The men's finals are the Para-Sports 200m freestyle S14, 100m breaststroke and 200m butterfly, with the women's being the 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 200m breaststroke and 4x200m freestyle relay. The men's butterfly race should involve Chad Le Clos, who became one of the global stars of the sport with his gold and silver medals at London 2012, and the South African also claimed five medals when the Commonwealth Games were held four years ago in India. There will also be plenty of interest for the home nations at the pool, notably in the women's 50m freestyle, which should feature England's Fran Halsall, who already has seven Commonwealth medals to her name, including a silver in this discipline in 2010. Plus, updates and reports on a variety of sports on day three of the Games, which has seen the start of the rugby sevens tournament and the conclusion of the rhythmic gymnastics and judo.

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.30** The National Lottery Live. **10.40** Tonight at the Games. Mark Chapman and Clare Balding present a round-up of the day's action on day three of the Commonwealth Games, featuring triathlon, swimming, netball and track cycling.

11.40 Commonwealth Games Sportsday.

11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: The Saint's Vacation. (1941) **7.00** Film: The Saint Meets the Tiger. (1943) **8.05** The Living Planet. (R) **9.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **9.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.00** Bette Davis: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.45** Film: Now, Voyager. (1942) Romantic drama, starring Bette Davis and Claude Rains. **3.40** Flog It! **4.40** Hive Alive. (R) **5.40** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

6.55 Antiques Road Trip. Antique experts Charlie Ross and Thomas Plant begin the second leg of their journey in Bath, before travelling through the Cotswolds to an auction in Stroud, Gloucestershire. They then pick up bargains on the way through Worcestershire and finish at a saleroom in Wrexham, north Wales.

7.55 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R)

8.25 Proms Extra. New series. Katie Derham returns with the weekly magazine show, with highlights of this week's concerts. Plus, music by pianist Haochen Zhang.

9.10 The Men Who Made Us Spend. Jacques Peretti visits American behavioural researchers who use their skills to help companies advertise goods to children, as he explores the history behind marketing products to younger consumers. He talks to a Nickelodeon executive who brought American-style kids' TV to the UK and also meets a car designer who promoted his vehicle to the children in the back seat. Jacques reveals how these techniques have been applied to adults, and explores the rise of computer gaming for grown-ups and chats to the people behind the Neopets craze. Last in the series.

10.10 Commonwealth Games.

10.30 Film: Up in the Air. (2009) A corporate downsizing expert finds his emotionally detached lifestyle under threat from an executive with revolutionary ideas. Comedy drama, with George Clooney.

12.15 Film: Kluge. (1971)

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** Dinner Date. (R) **2.30** Film: The Mirror Crack'd. (1980) Miss Marple mystery, starring Angela Lansbury. **4.30** Film: Twister. (1996) Action thriller, with Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton.

6.35 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. X Factor winner Sam Bailey, Coronation Street star Hayley Tamaddon and gymnast-turned-2012 Strictly Come Dancing champion Louis Smith have a go on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.

8.30 Film: Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones. (2002) Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi and apprentice Anakin Skywalker are sent to protect Senator Padme Amidala from an assassin. However, as galactic civil war threatens to erupt, the pair are forced to split their efforts, leading Anakin into an ill-advised romance and the beginnings of a journey toward the dark side. George Lucas's second prequel to the original sci-fi trilogy, starring Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman and Christopher Lee.

11.10 ITV News: Weather.

11.30 Goodwood Festival of Speed 2014. Highlights from Goodwood House in West Sussex

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and York. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.20 Come Dine with Me. Driving instructor Alison Firth hosts the final dinner party in Warwickshire, and hopes that her 1980s disco-themed night will impress her guests. (R)

6.50 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presides over the 2014 Shed of the Year competition, visiting a range of extraordinary and eccentric builds vying for the title across Britain. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Simon and Jill Bennett as they try to restore two timber-framed barns in Suffolk. The couple found out that one of the buildings is among the smallest surviving medieval guildhalls in the country, and while Kevin advises them to conserve it in its present state, Simon is determined to restore it to its former glory. (R)

9.00 Film: Paul. (2011) An alien held captive in a top-secret American military base escapes and hides out in the van of two English comic-book geeks on a tour of UFO hotspots. The wisecracking extraterrestrial enlists the duo's help in getting back to his spaceship, but they are soon pursued by government agents and unwittingly become kidnappers. Sci-fi comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost, with the voice of Seth Rogen.

11.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Summer Special. The comedian is joined by Miranda Hart, Vin Diesel, The Inbetweeners stars and Rizzle Kicks for an evening of summertime fun and chat.

12.05 Film: Dreamgirls. (2006) **2.20** Utopia. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. **5.20** How to Cook Like Heston. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.15** Big Brother. (R) **12.45** NCIS. (R) **1.40** NCIS. (R) **2.40** Film: Cahill, US Marshal. (1973) Western, starring John Wayne. **4.50** Film: Rio Lobo. (1970) Howard Hawks' Western, with John Wayne and Jorge Rivero.

7.00 5 News Weekend.

7.05 World's Craziest Weddings. Comedian Milo McCabe narrates a selection of incidents and stunts that made people's special days even more memorable, including footage of the world's first zero-gravity wedding. (R)

8.00 Baby Face Brides. Documentary following three couples from different backgrounds who all have something in common – the bride-to-be will be walking down the aisle as a teenager. Rebecca was pregnant when she got together with Aaron and they have a budget of £2,000 for their big day, while Lauren had been going out with Duncan for just four months when he proposed. Unemployed Ryan saved up to buy Emmie's ring and his mother and grandmother have taken control of organising the big day. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Michael Hutchence. Richard Shepherd investigates the death of INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, who was found dead with a belt round his neck in his Sydney hotel room in November 1997. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Ryan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

10.00 Film: Blades of Glory (2007) **11.30** Family Guy **1.40** American Dad! **2.25** People Just Do Nothing **2.55** Impractical Jokers **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **11.55** Pink Floyd: A Delicate Sound of Thunder **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1979 **2.10** Commonwealth on Film **2.40** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.40 Take Me Out **1.05** The Only Way Is Essex **2.35** Dinner Date: Australia **3.30** You've Been Framed **5.30** Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) **7.15** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** Film: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) **11.20** Film: Friends with Kids (2011) **1.35** The Maguluf Weekend **2.25** Crazy Beaches **2.45** Nicki Minaj: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.15 Inspector Morse **4.55** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Storage Wars **11.55** The Cycle Show **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Stage 20 from Bergerac to Perigueux. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: From Russia with Love (1963) **10.25** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **1.35** Motorway Patrol **2.00** Tour de France Highlights **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Rules of Engagement **1.30** Suburgatory **2.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00** Film: Hittman (2007) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Virtually Famous **12.35** RuDe Tube **1.40** How I Met Your Mother **2.35** Bob's Burgers **4.05** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 The Last Mimzy (2007) **1.00** Hope Floats (1998) **3.15** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.55** The Love Bug (1968) **7.10** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.00** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **11.05** End of Days (1999) **1.25** Predator (1987) **3.40** Close



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CHOICE



Tom's Fantastic Floating Home
(Channel 4, 7pm)
New series. Tom Lawton has been responsible for a host of inventions, including skate bikes, 360-degree bubble cameras, wind-powered lighting systems and recordable alarm clocks. In this programme, he is using his creative imagination to transform a derelict boat into a home filled with practical inventions for everyday life. He begins by tackling the challenges of shelter and security, coming up with an 'all-seeing eye' to ward off intruders, an armadillo-inspired retractable roof and a garden that maintains itself.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 8.55 Commonwealth Games. 12.00 Commonwealth Games. Continued coverage from Glasgow. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Commonwealth Games. The opening track events at Hampden Park. 4.50 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.10 Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights. 6.30 Commonwealth Games. Hazel Irvine presents further coverage of the fourth day of the Games in Glasgow, including athletics and track cycling. 7.10 Commonwealth Games. Gary Lineker introduces the concluding live coverage on day four of the Games in Glasgow, featuring the latest night in the pool at Tollcross International Swimming Centre. The semi-finals of the men's 50m breaststroke and 100m butterfly, and women's 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke are on the agenda this evening, along with seven finals, including the men's 50m backstroke, 100m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relay. The backstroke promises to be fast and furious, featuring as it does a one-length sprint for glory, and England's Liam Tancock won gold four years ago in Delhi in a new Games record, as he did in the 100m, making him one of the stand-out performers in the pool as the England squad finished well behind Australia in the standings. The Australians have since unearthed another star in the shape of James Magnussen, who will expect to be victorious in the freestyle, having won silver at London 2012 to add to his two world championship triumphs. As for the home support, they will be cheering on Scotland in the relay, in which they won silver four years ago – one of only six medals they managed to win in the swimming events. Coverage continues on BBC Two. 10.05 BBC News. 10.30 Tonight at the Games. Mark Chapman and Clare Balding present a round-up of the fourth day's action. 11.40 Commonwealth Games Sportsday. Katherine Downes presents a round-up of the fourth day's events in Glasgow. 11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: The Gay Falcon. (1941) 7.20 Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) 8.20 Countryfile. (R) 9.05 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.35 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.05 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.35 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) 12.05 Rick Stein's India. (R) 1.05 Film: Cimarron. (1960) Western, starring Glenn Ford. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 Commonwealth Games. Featuring the men's 5,000m final. 6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer advice on making money from antique domestic tools, including the most expensive ear cleaner that James Lewis has ever encountered. 7.00 Antiques Road Trip. Thomas Plant and Charlie Ross visit Church Stretton, Welsoph, Oswestry, Wrexham, Lichfield and Walsall before ending at their final auction showdown in Bedford. 8.00 Dragons' Den. Two entrepreneurs try to impress Peter Jones by eating their own brand of dog food, and the Dragons are entertained during a pitch by a colourful Indian dance troupe. 9.00 Red Arrows: Inside the Bubble. The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team – more commonly known as the Red Arrows – is based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire and has taken part in more than 4,500 displays since 1965. This documentary offers an insight into the day-to-day work and lives of the 120-strong team of pilots and ground crew as they prepare to mark the unit's 50th display season, with celebrations reflecting how the Red Arrows remain the public face of the RAF, helping with recruitment and acting as ambassadors for the United Kingdom. 10.05 Commonwealth Games. The concluding coverage on day four of the Games, which are being staged in Glasgow. 10.30 Ol XL. Extended edition. Victoria Wood, Richard Osman and Jason Manford join Alan Davies on the comedy quiz, with host Stephen Fry asking questions on the theme of the kitchen sink. 11.15 Film: Casanova. (2005) Romantic period drama, starring Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller and Jeremy Irons. 1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) 7.25 Dingo Dan. (R) 6.35 Dingo Dan. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.20 Digimon Fusion. (R) 7.45 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 8.00 Deadtime Stories. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 TV News; Weather. 11.35 River Monsters. (R) 12.05 Love Your Garden. (R) 1.05 Long Lost Family. (R) 2.05 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting. (1971) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Leslie Nielsen. 3.50 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.50 Tipping Point. (R) 6.45 Regional Programme; Weather. 7.00 ITV News; Weather. 7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking contestants Richie, Rachael and Craig to "say what they see" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R) 8.00 Foyle's War. The detective's investigation into the death of a nameless Russian leads to a mysterious military facility run by Colonel Harry Gall, a respected soldier with an impeccable war record. However, as Foyle makes inquiries, he realises the deceased was a spy with dangerous connections to British Intelligence. Meanwhile, Sam does her best to help husband Adam during his by-election campaign, but can't help putting her foot in it. Crime drama, starring Michael Kitchen and Honesuckle Weeks, with Jonathan Hyde and Daniel Weyman. (R) 10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.15 Film: Ocean's Twelve. (2004) The crooks reunite when an old enemy demands they repay the money they stole from him three years previously. Crime caper sequel, with George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts. 12.30 The Store. Home shopping. 2.35 Motorsport UK. Highlights from Gt. 3.25 British Superbike Championship Highlights. The latest action. 4.15 Britain's Best Bakery. Three Devon-based bakeries compete. (R) 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 VW Racing. (R) 7.35 Howl Met Your Mother. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 The Simpsons. (R) 2.55 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Film: Step Up. (2006) Romantic dance drama, with Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan. 5.35 Deal or No Deal. 6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Tom's Fantastic Floating Home. New series. Tom Lawton has been responsible for a host of inventions, including skate bikes, 360-degree bubble cameras, wind-powered lighting systems and recordable alarm clocks. In this programme, he is using his creative imagination to transform a derelict boat into a home filled with practical inventions for everyday life. He begins by tackling the challenges of shelter and security, coming up with an "all-seeing eye" to ward off intruders, an armadillo-inspired retractable roof and a garden that maintains itself. 8.00 The Mill. Esther comes of age and leaves the apprentice house, moving into a small, dirty cellar in Styl village, and her head is still spinning from her initial encounter with trainee shoemaker Mill. Daniel spends more time away from home at political meetings, and his wife Susanah struggles to adjust to life away from her friends. Meanwhile, Peter returns from a speaking tour with Hannah and gets to know Miriam better, but she is horrified by the rumours that she is circulating about them the next day. 9.00 Child Genius. The 15 remaining gifted youngsters face two more gruelling rounds, including one in which they have an hour to commit 104 randomly shuffled playing cards to memory. 10.00 Film: The Negotiator. (1998) A hostage negotiator accused of murder takes captives and tries to convince a colleague sent to reason with his of his innocence. Thriller, with Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey. 12.40 Film: The Insider. (1999) 3.15 The Million Pound Drop. (R) 4.10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.35 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 6.55 Bubble Guppies. (R) 6.40 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 7.40 City of Doves. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.35 Mio Mao. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jam. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Access. 10.05 My Child Is a Monkey. (R) 11.05 Big Brother. (R) 12.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.05 Film: Big Momma's House. (2000) 2.55 Film: The Kid. (2000) 4.55 Film: Happy Feet. (2006) 6.55 5 News Weekend. 7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the opening day of the Third Test at Aqueas Bowl in Southampton, where the five match series continued. 8.00 The Incredible Hulk Woman: Extraordinary People. Documentary following a mother-of-three who has rare neurological condition stiff-person syndrome, which causes severe muscle spasms in the arms and legs. (R) 9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. 10.00 Film: Rambo. (2008) The one-man army travels to Burma to rescue a party of missionaries from a sadistic military officer. Action sequel, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Julie Benz. Edited to reduce end credits. 11.40 Film: Universal Soldier: The Return. (1999) The resurrected warrior battles against a deadly computerised opponent. Action adventure sequel, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Michael Jai White. Edited to remove content as advised by BBFC. 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Emergency Bikers. (R) 4.00 Great Scientists. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
10.00 Family Guy 10.45 People Just Do Nothing 11.15 Family Guy 12.45 Russell Howard's Good News 1.15 People Just Do Nothing 1.45 Impractical Jokers 2.15 Survivors
BBC Four
9.15 A Hundred Million Musicians: China's Classical Challenge 9.45 Film: In Darkness (2011) 12.00 Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend 1.00 Motown at the BBC 2.00 Lionel Richie – Dancing on the Ceiling 3.00 Prince: A Purple Reign
ITV2
12.30 America's Got Talent 2.50 The Hot Desk: Neon Jungle 3.00 You've Been Framed! 3.55 Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) 6.05 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) 8.00 Film: About a Boy (2002) 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Film: Saw II (2005) 12.40 TV OD 1.05 Fake Reaction 1.50 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed!
ITV3
11.15 Jane Eyre 1.30 A Touch of Frost 3.50 Film: On the Buses (1971) 5.40 Inspector Morse 8.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs 9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst 10.00 Film: The Elephant Man (1980) 12.35 William and Mary 1.35 Wycliffe 2.30 World Kitchen 2.55 ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.00 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights 12.00 The Sweeney 1.00 Tour de France Live. The La Course by Le Tour de France. 2.00 Tour de France Highlights 3.00 Tour de France Live. Stage 21 from Evry to the finish line at the Champs-Élysées in Paris. 7.00 The Car Chasers 8.00 Storage Wars Unlocked 9.00 Tour de France Highlights 10.00 Film: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) 12.50 Tour de France Highlights 1.50 River Monsters: Untold Stories 2.45 Movies Now 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
12.30 How I Met Your Teacher 2.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.30 Suburgatory 4.00 The Mindy Project 4.30 New Girl 5.00 The 100 6.00 Rude(ish) Tube 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: X-Men (2000) 10.05 The Big Bang Theory 11.00 Virtually Famous 11.50 Rude Tube 12.55 Ben Eltrick: Trick Artist
Film4
11.00 The Ladykillers (1955) 1.00 Just Wright (2010) 2.55 Five Children and It (2004) 4.50 Marley and Me (2008) 7.05 The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) 9.00 Solomon Kane (2010) 11.05 Underworld: Evolution (2006)

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MONDAY

On Hostile Ground, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A geologist tries to prevent a huge sinkhole from swallowing New Orleans as the citizens prepare for Mardi Gras. He has a tough time convincing the festival-goers of the danger that threatens them, with many doubting his judgement because he failed to predict a serious event in the past. Action adventure, starring John Corbett, Jessica Steen, Brittany Daniel and Andrew Kraulis. (2000)

TUESDAY

Look Again, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman survives an encounter in her home with a masked intruder, who murders her partner. The police quickly apprehend a suspect, but she believes they have arrested someone innocent. When she meets her friend's new man, she becomes convinced he is the real killer. Thriller, starring Morena Baccarin. (2011)



Infamous, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Polar Storm, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A comet collides with Earth, causing a devastating series of quakes, floods and volcanic eruptions. However, when the dust has settled, it turns out worse is to come. The impact has pushed the planet off its axis, and if a team of scientists cannot put it right, the crust will shift, wiping out all life. Disaster thriller, starring Jack Coleman and Tyler Johnston. (2009)

THURSDAY

Black Widow, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Photojournalist Melanie becomes jealous when her wealthy male friend gets engaged. But as she tries to dig up some dirt on his fiancée, she realises her love rival may actually be a murderer, who has married a series of rich men and killed them to claim the inheritance. Thriller, starring Elizabeth Berkley. (2008)

FRIDAY

Infamous, BBC2, 11.05pm
Biographical drama focusing on events surrounding Truman Capote's production of his best-selling non-fiction work In Cold Blood, based on the slaughter of a Kansas family. In his quest for fame and success, the American writer becomes transfixed by one of the two killers, and begins to struggle with drink and drug addiction. Starring Toby Jones, Sandra Bullock, Daniel Craig, Sigourney Weaver and Isabella Rossellini. (2006)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Make a note to tune in to Alan's new series

Oh look, it's just what we were all crying out for – another new TV talent show.
But before you get start getting too cynical, this new singing contest does have a twist, and we're not talking about chairs that spin round.

Thanks to a real-time interactive app, the viewing public won't have to listen to the opinions of a panel of expert judges before they are allowed to start voting, but will be able to take complete control of the show themselves.

Perhaps we should let presenter Alan Carr explain it. The Chatty Man says: "When they said it was a singing show, I thought 'No, no, no!' But when I saw this app, I thought it felt really different."

"While the singers are performing their song on the show, they're standing on a conveyor belt called The Track. If you like them, you press 'hit' if you don't you, press 'miss'. The more hits they get, they move towards the gold

zone, where they could win up to £10,000. Or, if it's all 'Misses', you could disappear backwards through the flaps to a life of misery."
He adds: "But people can't vote unless they've downloaded the app. Well, they can shout at the telly, but it's not going to make a blind bit of difference."

And according to Carr, that's not the only thing that makes The Singer Take It All stand out. For a start, unlike certain other TV talent contests we can name, it definitely won't be taking itself too seriously, or promising to turn anyone into an international superstar.

The comedian says: "We're not saying 'Ten million records.' It's got the same feel to it as when you do karaoke down the pub - there's no pressure, just come and have a go."

"And there's all of that rubbish on the talent shows of 'I don't like you... [pause]... I LOVE you! You're a dark horse.' This competition just got exciting.' Here

there isn't any of that, it's stripped bare. Nobody's cat has just died."
What The Singer Takes It All does have though is a celebrity guest who will give a bit of guidance and feedback – and Carr has some practical advice of his own for the would-be warblers. "I've been on the conveyor belt, and it's very off-putting. When it jolts when you hit a bum note and the audience decides that you're rubbish, and it starts to move, it's really tricky. I would wear flat shoes, that would be my hint."

However, he admits he's in less of a position to give pointers on vocal technique.

"I can either do really low, like Barry White, or high like the Bee Gees or Kate Bush. There's no happy medium with my voice, I'm afraid. Actually, I wanted to sing a song at the end of the show like Cilla Black did on Surprise, Surprise. Strangely, they said no."

At least the contestants are guaranteed to be heard, even if they don't stick around for long.



Alan Carr, The Singer Takes It All, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Blinging Up Baby, Channel 5, 9pm
Some parents can't really see the point of spending loads on money on their kids' clothing when it's only going to end up covered in food, before being outgrown in a matter of months. But others think nothing of giving their babies and toddlers designer wardrobes and crystal-covered dummies, even though, as this documentary discovers, all that bling comes at a price. Essex student and single mum Sophie May Dixon describes her daughters, four-year-old Princess Bliss Tiana May and one-year-old Precious Bell Ruby Rosina, as 'Barbie babies', but not everyone is impressed with their spray tans and frothy pink dresses – she's been criticised on social media, and her windows have been egged.

Long Lost Family, ITV, 9pm

Family man Richard Cue, 57, has always felt grateful for the love and support he received from his adoptive parents, so he wants to find his birth mother to thank her for the sacrifice she made in giving him up in 1957. Having accessed his records, however, he has been searching for almost a decade with little success. Tania Bartlett's

mother Julie fell pregnant to Iranian student Ahmed Kazem in the early 1960s, but the couple drifted apart when Julie felt unable to join Ahmed to start a new life in America. Despite intermittent contact with her father in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Tania has spent the past 30 years searching for him, not knowing if he is even alive. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell bring these families back together.

TUESDAY

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, Channel 5, 9pm
A seedy motel, a series of nasty but mysterious murders and a suspect who is clearly mentally ill... Are the members of Las Vegas's premier crime-solving team entering into Alfred Hitchcock territory? It sounds the outline of the plot of Psycho, doesn't it? You'll have to wait and see if the finale involves a bloke dressed up as his mother, but the case certainly leaves the team scratching its collective head. They're called to the Sky View motel after the bodies of Richard and Anne Smith are found there. They're the fourth victims in the space of three months, and the person responsible leads the team on a very grisly trail.



This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show, Channel 4, 8pm

WEDNESDAY

This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show, Channel 4, 8pm
It's the last episode of the series, so will its producers do something a little bit different with the format? Sadly, no – instead, we can expect the same sort of person involved as we've seen for the past five weeks. So meet Lucie, a London lass with seemingly thousands of items of clothing, none of which make her happy. She's got a holiday in Ibiza coming up and is determined to look like a million dollars while standing out from the crowd. She isn't a convert to vintage – yet. But you can bet that host Dawn O'Porter will have persuaded her to try on something at least 20 years old before the closing credits roll.

THURSDAY
Autopsy: The Last Hours of Karen Carpenter, Channel 5, 9pm

In case you didn't know it, Karen Carpenter was half of

the brother-and-sister singing sensation The Carpenters. Their feelgood 1970s hits such as Goodbye to Love, Close to You and Rainy Days and Mondays helped make their fortune, and on this side of the Pond they seemed like a permanent fixture on Radio 2. However, behind the scenes, Karen's weight problems left her painfully thin. She collapsed and died 31 years ago; the cause of death was emetine cardiotoxicity – a consequence of anorexia nervosa. With the aid of her autopsy report, Dr Richard Shepherd examines the last few weeks of Karen's life and attempts to unravel what happened on the fateful morning of her death in February 1983.

FRIDAY

The Million Pound Drop, Channel 4, 8pm
This Batta-winning game show has been running, off and on, for the past four years. Plenty of celebs have graced the show since 2010, including Alan Carr, Emma Bunton, Jonathan Ross, and more recently Stephen and Christopher from Gogglebox. However, it's usually Joe Public who provide the most entertainment as they attempt to boost their coffers and change their lives. This week it's the turn of Geoff and his granddaughter Daniella, and Tom and Lowri from Swansea. Davina McCall hosts.

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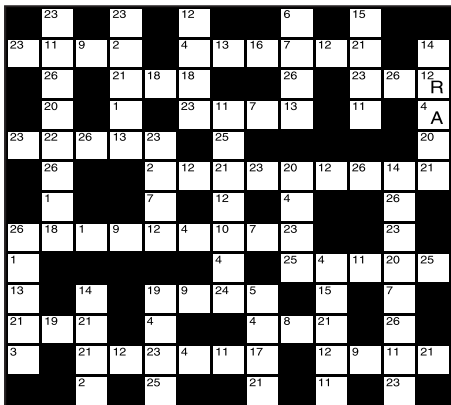
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

N	L	R	T	D	E	Z	K	I	P	A	C	J
G	Q	S	V	M	Y	W	O	F	X	B	U	H

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

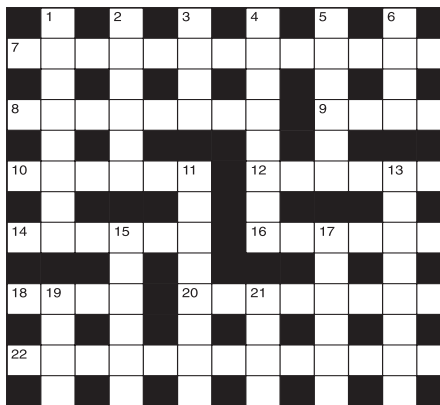
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Writers find it absorbing (8,5)
8. Masterful man I don't have to replace (8)
9. Off it goes to wreak destruction (4)
10. Press for identity documents? (6)
12. It's very hot when it's clear on the hill (6)
14. Dock item (6)
16. Condescends to change the design (6)
18. Cross and discourteous, we hear (4)
20. A love letter disposed to show forbearance (8)
22. It's empowered to remove unwanted growth (8,5)

Down

1. Local tea-place perhaps (8)
2. Knock everybody out (6)
3. Mail order for a city (4)
4. Shaken and upset (8)
5. A bend in the road (6)
6. Miner's union? (4)
11. Lone Royalist, perhaps (8)
13. Switched-on motorists may have it (8)
15. He may go to pot (6)
17. A way of approach that isn't welcomed? (6)
19. Lois becomes a medium (4)
21. It's not the key part of a fire-arm (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Exaggeration (13)
8. Guise (8)
9. Want (4)
10. Soup dish (6)
12. Tattle (6)
14. Feverish (6)
16. Jostle (6)
18. Visage (4)
20. Absurdity (8)
22. Meditation (13)

Down

1. Proposal (8)
2. Squirm (6)
3. Stupefy (4)
4. Power (8)
5. Compensation (6)
6. Formerly (4)
11. Soubriquet (8)
13. Fantasy (8)
15. Agreement (6)
17. Scabbard (6)
19. Particle (4)
21. Invalid (4)

Sudoku

			6		3			
6	1	7				3	4	
	8			1			5	7
		2	4		7	9		
9			4	2		9	5	
	5				4			1
	2	1		9		8	6	
3			1		8			

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	3	7	1	6	4	5	2
1	7	5	8	4	2	9	6	3
4	2	6	3	5	9	1	8	7
3	5	9	4	6	1	2	7	8
6	1	7	5	2	8	3	4	9
2	4	8	9	3	7	6	1	5
7	6	1	2	8	3	5	9	4
5	8	2	6	9	4	7	3	1
9	3	4	1	7	5	8	2	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Alps; 8 Astronomer; 9 Consider; 10 Type; 12 Poncho; 14 Silver; 15 Rique; 17 Hearts; 18 Were; 19 Turn down; 21 Foot-baller; 22 Eels. Down: 2 Locomotive; 3 Saws; 4 Studio; 5 Boards; 6 Tortilla; 7 Free; 11 Pretty well; 13 Coquette; 16 Extras; 17 Hurdle; 18 Wife; 20 Dire. QUICK - Across: 1 Pith; 8 Unreadable; 9 Captives; 10 Rich; 12 Appear; 14 Legend; 15 Abject; 17 Pullet; 18 Team; 19 Ill-treat; 21 Four-footed; 22 Ewer. Down: 2 Impalpable; 3 Hunt; 4 Drover; 5 Vassal; 6 Madrigal; 7 Mesh; 11 Conveyance; 13 Evermore; 16 Tallor; 17 Pilots; 18 Tiff; 20 Rude.

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Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.⁹⁵

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Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵

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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

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Theatre Showstopper from £209.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

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Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



Traditional home

A **SPACIOUS** traditional-style three bedroomed property in **Wednesfield's** sought after area of **Ashmore Park** in **Peacock Avenue** has a **20ft lounge** and **potential to extend**.

Having gated allocated parking to the rear, this delightful home is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £120,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating the property features an entrance hall, side lobby, a kitchen with a built-in pantry, through-lounge with a patio-style door leading to the rear garden, three bedrooms (two with storage), a re-fitted bathroom with a white suite with shower over the bath and a rear garden with a patio.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents, who are handling the sale, on 01902 732324 or visit their website, www.skitts.net



Modern 3-bed semi in a pleasant cul-de-sac



A **MODERN** three bedroomed semi-detached house with neatly arranged accommodation in **Scholars Walk, Rushall, Walsall** lies in a pleasant cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £129,950 with no chain. With part double glazing and gas central heating it has a lounge with wood effect laminate flooring, a breakfast kitchen with light green units, contrasting working surfaces, floor tiling and splash-back tiling, a conservatory with wood effect flooring, a bathroom with a cream suite, three bedrooms (master en-suite shower area), a rear garden.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01922 241100 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk



Stunningly fitted out terraced house



A **WELL-maintained**, smart three bedroomed mid terraced house in **Hall Green Road, West Bromwich** must be seen to be fully appreciated. Attractively decorated throughout, it is for sale through Goodchilds at £140,000.

It has a stunning living room with a modern feature fireplace, a dining room with a bay window, a gorgeous kitchen with white high gloss units, contrasting wood effect working surfaces and splash-back areas and wood-effect flooring, an electric oven and gas hob, a main bedroom with built-in wardrobes and a bay window, two further bedrooms and a bathroom including a corner bath and splash-back areas.

For further information contact Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



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Spacious and outstanding Edwardian semi-detached

AN exceedingly spacious and truly outstanding Edwardian four bedroomed semi-detached residence in the popular **South Walsall** area in **Birmingham Road**, has a wealth of period features.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £399,950.

It has an entrance vestibule with light leaded windows with tiled flooring, a sitting hall with an attractive balustrade staircase off and a feature fireplace and door to a useful cellar, a guest cloakroom and secondary cloakroom.

There is a lounge with a large bay window with a circular feature stained glass window and a feature fireplace with a gas fire, a sitting room with double opening doors out the rear garden, dining room with wooden flooring and a feature fireplace, a breakfast kitchen with an integrated dishwasher, gas hob and double oven, part wall tiling, ceiling spot lights and tiled flooring, a conservatory, utility, storage cupboard, first floor bedroom one with a dressing room, three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a bath and shower cubicle. The large rear garden features a patio and workshop.

For details call 01922 621411 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC TBC



**CRAB LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Impressive Early 1950s Detached Residence
- Outstanding Extensive Plot
- Premier Location
- Immaculately Presented
- No Upward Chain
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Wc
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- Superb Potential to Extend STPP
- Gas Central Heating
- Very Long Driveway
- Garage

£360,000

MANAGER'S CHOICE

EPC C



**LAKESIDE CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

- Impressive Extended Modern Link Detached
- Spacious 18ft Lounge
- Hall with Guest wc
- Superb Extended Open Plan Dining Room and Re-fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Refitted En-suite Shower Room
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage and Driveway
- Viewing Highly Recommended
- NO CHAIN

£155,000

FEATURED PROPERTY

REDUCED

EPC E



**DURHAM AVENUE
WILLENHALL**

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- No Chain
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £110,000

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NEW

EPC D



**WOODSIDE WAY
WOODLANDS ESTATE**

- Superb Modern Style Semi Detached
- No Chain
- Very Popular Location
- Large Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen • Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms • Shower Room
- Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Garage • Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens

£135,000

NEW

EPC E



**CORONATION AVENUE
COUNTY BRIDGE**

- Traditional Semi Detached
- No Chain
- Lounge
- Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens

£125,000

NEW

EPC D



**MEMORIAL CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

- Superb Modern Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Double Glazing
- Pleasant Gardens
- Driveway

£125,000

NEW

EPC F



**YORK AVENUE
COUNTY BRIDGE**

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage • No Chain
- Front & Rear Gardens

£118,000

NEW

EPC TBC



**FLETCHERS LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Immaculately Presented End Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Luxury Bathroom
- Superb Loft Room
- Excellent Shower room
- Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Delightful Landscaped Rear Garden

OFFERS OVER £110,000

NEW

EPC C



**HILTON ROAD
NEW INVENTION**

- Well presented mid terrace
- Three good size bedrooms
- Hall with guest wc
- Superb refitted dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Refitted shower room
- Double glazing • Gas CH
- Rear garden
- No chain

OFFERS OVER £100,000

NEW

EPC E



**LAKESIDE CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

- Back To Back End Town House
- Cul De Sac Location
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Double Glazing
- Front Garden
- No Chain
- Ideal Investment Property

£79,995

NEW

EPC TBC



**KING CHARLES AVENUE
BENTLEY**

- Extended Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Garage
- No Chain
- Garage • Gardens
- AUCTION PROPERTY

STARTING BID £69,950

NEW

EPC E



**MOOSE LANE
WILLENHALL**

- Well Appointed Detached
- Hall with Guest wc
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Lounge and Dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory/utility
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £140,000

NEW

EPC E



**CADNAM CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

- Modern Detached Property
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Garage • Driveway
- Rear Gardens

£139,950

NEW

EPC D



**ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE
NEW INVENTION**

- Modern Style Mid Terrace
- Popular Cul-De-Sac
- Reception Hall
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom
- Lounge • Fitted kitchen
- Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway

OFFERS OVER £125,000

REDUCED

EPC D



**SANDRINGHAM AVENUE
WILLENHALL**

- Stunning Extended Semi Detached
- Hall • Lounge • Spacious Sitting / Dining Room
- Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen • Utility with Guests WC
- Three Bedrooms • Impressive Luxury Bathroom
- Driveway • Rear Gardens • Double Glazing • Gas CH

£160,000

NEW

EPC E



**LABURNUM GROVE
BENTLEY**

- Renovated Mid Terrace Property
- No Chain
- Through Lounge/ Dining Room
- Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Separate WC
- Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Driveway
- Rear Gardens

£106,000

REDUCED

EPC D



**CEDAR PARK ROAD
SNEYD PARK**

- Mid Terrace Property
- No Upward Chain
- Hall • Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Rear Gardens

£105,000

REDUCED

EPC E



**WELLINGTON PLACE
WILLENHALL**

- Immaculately Presented Period Semi Detached Property
- Lounge • Dining Room
- Re-Fitted Kitchen • Utility
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens

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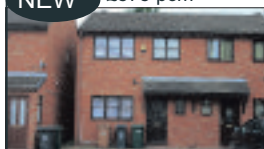

NEW £650 pcm




Launceston Close

- A splendid 3 bed detached property
- Upstairs family bathroom with bath and shower
- A spacious lounge with feature fire place
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Integral garage, EPC rating D



NEW £575 pcm

Cobden Street

- A well presented 4 bed semi detached
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- 1 spacious reception room
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Driveway, Guest WC

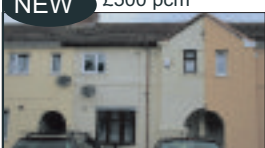

NEW £525 pcm

Broadway West

- A traditional 3 bed semi detached
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Driveway, EPC rating D

NEW £500 pcm

Myatt Close

- A well presented 3 bed mid terrace property
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- 1 spacious reception room
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

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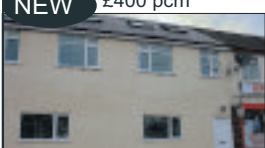

NEW £450 pcm




Walsall Road

- A 2 bed duplex apartment
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- 1 spacious reception room
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- DSS accepted EPC rating E


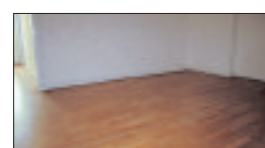
NEW £400 pcm

Broadstone Avenue,

- A re-furnished 1bed 1st floor apartment
- Bathroom with shower over bath
- A superb open planned lounge/kitchen
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- New fitted kitchen with cooker
- Neutral decor, EPC rating C


NEW £350 pcm

Gough Street

- A 1 bed ground floor apartment
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- 1 spacious reception room
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- EPC rating E

£875 pcm



Delves Green Road

- An extended 4 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Luxury en-suite shower room
- Garage, Driveway EPC rating D

£700 pcm



Bloxwich Road

- A fully re-furnished 4 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 4 bathrooms all with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS considered EPC rating E

£550 pcm



Vincent Street

- A well presented 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden EPC rating E


£500 pcm



Addenbrooke Street

- A well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

£495 pcm



Abbey Square

- A redecorated 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating C

£425 pcm



Stroud Avenue

- A choice of three 2 bed apartments
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with separate WC
- Double Glazing throughout
- Viewing essential EPC rating F

£695 pcm

LET
Similar properties required



Vinvent Street

- A well presented 4 bed detached bungalow
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 2 family bathroom 1 with a shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Enclosed rear garden EPC rating F

£500 pcm

LET
Similar properties required



Windrush Close

- A modern 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Allocated parking EPC rating C

£495 pcm

LET
Similar properties required




Eldon Street

- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden with patio EPC rating E

£450 pcm

LET
Similar properties required




Lord Street, Palfrey

- A re-decorated 2 double bed end terrace
- 2 Spacious reception rooms
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£430 pcm

LET
Similar properties required




Scarborough Ropad

- A well presented 2 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£260 pcm

LET
Similar properties required



Bloxwich Road

- A 1st floor studio apartment
- Open planned living and kitchen area
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- EPC rating D

All rents and deposits are protected by
 Client Money Protection Insurance



Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

0121 289 3838

Auction

**Monday 4th
August 2014
at 6.00pm Precisely**

**Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA**

Lot 1 **Botany Road Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 10.00



Situated in the popular Delves area of Walsall this traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Set back behind a lawned foregarden with off street parking and good size overgrown rear garden the property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby, W.C, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Street Parking, Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating F.

GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000

Lot 3 **Wolverhampton Road Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 12.45



A gas centrally heated upvc double glazed end terraced property ideal for first time buyer or investor which has a new kitchen and bathroom installed. The property comprises: Reception Hall, Front Reception Room, Rear Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating E.

GUIDE PRICE £55,000 - £65,000

Lot 4 **Dora Court, Lodge Road Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 11.30



This purpose built ground floor apartment is situated in one of South Walsall's most desirable areas and internal viewing is recommended. The double glazed and centrally heated accommodation is convenient for all amenities and comprises of the following: Communal Grounds with in and out driveway, Communal Hallway with door leading to Reception Hall with store cupboard, Lounge with laminate floor covering and window and door to rear gardens, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Integral Garage with door to useful store room with access to rear garden. EPC Rating C.

GUIDE PRICE £95,000 - £105,000

Lot **Brookhouse Road Walsall**

Viewing: Strictly By Appointment



GUIDE PRICE £250,000 PLUS

Internal viewing of this delightfully situated detached property is essential in order to appreciate its many appealing features. Within a short distance of all local amenities the well planned property offers in particular a large conservatory overlooking the excellent rear garden. With gas central heating and upvc double glazing the property includes: Enclosed Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Dining Room, Lounge, Attractive Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Tandem Garage/Utility, Three Double Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Family Bathroom, Excellent Sized Well Maintained Fore And Attractive Rear Garden. EPC Rating E.

Lot 5 **Catshill Road Brownhills**

Viewing: The Site Is Open For Viewing



A Freehold residential building plot, of approximately 0.07 ha, with Outline Planning Permission Subject to Conditions, for the erection of two dwellings. Application No: 14/0323/OL. The plot is conveniently located within a short distance of Brownhills centre with all facilities provided

GUIDE PRICE £50,000 - £60,000

Lot 6 **Selwyn Road Bilston**

Viewing: Strictly By Appointment



A recently refurbished end terrace residence benefitting from gas fired central heating and double glazing which would make an ideal purchase for either a first time buyer or an investor. Internal inspection is recommended to appreciate the well planned spacious accommodation which comprises: Ground Floor, Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with oven and hob and useful store, Utility Room, Rear Porch, Two Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom with white suite and shower measuring, Fore Garden, Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC Rating C

GUIDE PRICE £65,000 PLUS

Lot 9 **George Frederick Road Sutton Coldfield**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 12.00



A much extended traditional semi-detached property conveniently located just off Banners Gate Road with all amenities close including Sutton Park. The well planned spacious accommodation which needs attention to the roof has double glazing and gas central heating and comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Well Equipped Fitted Kitchen, Side Utility, W.C., Side Storage, Four Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom, Additional Shower Room, Garage, Fore Garden with off street parking, Rear Garden. EPC Rating E.

GUIDE PRICE £155,000 - £175,000

Lot 11 **Green Rock Lane Bloxwich**

Viewing: Strictly By Appointment



Offering tremendous potential to the discerning purchaser this detached property situated on a good sized corner plot lends itself to a number of options including a large family home or conversion subject to planning. Offering upvc double glazing the property includes: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Sitting Room (Former Shop), Dining Room, Kitchen, Verandah, Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom, Large Frontage With Ample Off Road Parking, Excellent Rear Garden With Separate Detached Garage Off Smithfield Road. EPC Rating F.

GUIDE PRICE £110,000 - £130,000

Lot 12 **Florence Street Walsall**

Viewing: Strictly By Appointment



Situated in the popular Chucky area of Walsall, this Victorian mid terraced property has gas fired central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for an investor or first time buyer. The property has not been internally inspected and any amendment to details will be included in the addendum to the auction catalogue or changed on this website as soon as an inspection has taken place. The property is believed to comprise: Lounge/Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, yard and Rear Garden.

GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £75,000

Lot 14 **Kennet Close Brownhills**

Viewing: The Site Is Open For Viewing



A Freehold residential building plot, of approximately 0.05 ha, with Outline Planning Permission Subject to Conditions, for the erection of two dwellings. Application No: 14/0336/OL. The plot is conveniently located within a short distance of Brownhills town centre with all facilities provided.

GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £50,000

Lot 15 **Selbourne Street Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 12.00

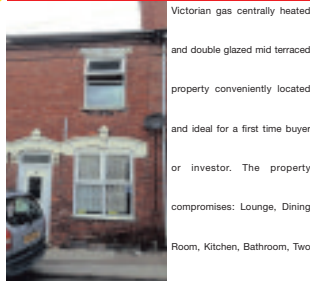


GUIDE PRICE £165,000 PLUS

Occupying a prominent corner position in the heart of Chucky these four commercial and one residential unit would make an ideal investment whilst also offering a development opportunity. Viewing is recommended to appreciate the many options the property offers: Double Fronted Cafe with Kitchen Prep Room, Prep Room rear yard, W.C's, Cellar and Store. Self Contained 2 Storey Unit with Communal Hallway, Workshop, First Floor Room, Office, W.C., Kitchen. Self Contained Unit with Store & Workshop. Self Contained Two Storey Unit with L-Shaped Workshop, Garage and First Floor Offices. Self Contained Flat Let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy with Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom & Lobby. Awaiting EPC

Lot 18 **Weston Street Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 2.15



GUIDE PRICE £65,000 PLUS

Victorian gas centrally heated and double glazed mid terraced property conveniently located and ideal for a first time buyer or investor. The property comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms. EPC Rating E

Lot 20 **Green Lane Walsall**

Viewing: The Site Is Open For Viewing



A Freehold residential building plot, of approximately 0.04 ha with Outline Planning Permission Subject to Conditions, for the erection of two dwellings. Application No: 14/0331/OL. The plot is conveniently located within a short distance of Leamore and Bloxwich centres with all facilities provided.

GUIDE PRICE £30,000 - £40,000

Lot 21 **Carl Street Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 1.15



Victorian mid terraced residence with double glazing and central heating offering an opportunity for a first time buyer or investor, the property is conveniently located and comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Yard and Rear Garden. EPC Rating F.

GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £50,000

Lot 22 **Greenside Way Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 11.00



Set on a large corner plot approximately 0.2 of an acre lending itself to potential re-development (subject to planning) this detached bungalow is in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Situated in a popular residential area with open aspect to front the property has a wide frontage approximately 70 feet and comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Additional Room with access to outside, Side Lobby, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating F

GUIDE PRICE £100,000 - £120,000

Lot 23 **Poplar Avenue Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 10.30



Occupying a prominent corner position on a good size plot lending itself to further development subject to planning this traditional detached residence has gas central heating and double glazing. Located in a popular area with open space to front, the property comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area with W.C. off, Enclosed Rear Porch, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage. The property is set back from the road behind a driveway and foregarden, whilst there is a large side garden and rear garden. EPC Rating F.

GUIDE PRICE £150,000 - £170,000

Lot 24 **Somerfield Road Bloxwich**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 1.45



Traditionally styled semi-detached property situated close to Bloxwich Town Centre with all facilities provided and benefitting from gas central heating. In need of modernisation and improvement the property offers a project for a first time buyer on investor. Set back behind a fore garden with off street parking the property comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen with useful store cupboard, Rear Lobby with access to W.C., Rear Porch, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, and Fore Garden with off street parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £55,000 - £65,000

Lot 26 **Holtshill Lane Walsall**

Viewing: 25 July & 1 August at 2.45



Acting on behalf of Mortgagees in Possession. Victorian terraced property in need of complete modernisation and improvement situated within a short distance of Walsall town centre with all amenities provided. The property comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Fore & Rear Gardens. EPC Rating D.

GUIDE PRICE £45,000 PLUS

L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi
Comprising Of
Entrance Hall, Guest
W.C., Fitted Kitchen
& Through Lounge,
Family Bathroom
And Separate W.C.
UPVC Double
Glazing & Gas
Central Heating.
Front And Rear
Gardens.

£78,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

HUNTINGTON RD, NEW INV.
Well Presented Two
Bed Mid Terraced
Property Having
Through Lounge,
Fitted Kitchen,
Separate Utility
Area, Two Double
Bedrooms With
Family Bathroom, C/
Heating, D/Glazing,
Garden And Off
Road Parking.

£80,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

SHEPVELL GREEN, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi
Having Entrance
Porch, Hall, Lounge,
Separate Dining
Room, Fitted
Kitchen, Family
Bathroom, UPVC
D/Glazing, Gas C/
Heating, Off Road
Parking, Garden To
Front And Rear.

£130,000

NEW INSTRUCTIONS - NEW HOMES

FOR SALE

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

THREE PLOTS
AVAILABLE - Two Bed
New Build Houses.
Comprising Of Entrance
Hall, Guest W.C., Lounge,
Modern Fitted Kitchen
Diner, En-suite Shower
Room To Master And
Family Bathroom. D/
Glazing & C/Heating.
Garden To Rear.

£125,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

DARVEL RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi
Having Entrance
Hall, Lounge/Diner,
Fitted Kitchen,
Family Bathroom,
D/Glazing, Gas C/
Heating, Integral
Garage, Driveway
And An Enclosed
Garden To The Rear.

£140,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

FRANCHISE ST, WEDNESBURY
Three Bedroom End
Terrace Property.
Entrance Hall, Three
Reception Rooms,
Kitchen, Ground
Floor Shower Room,
Family Bathroom
And Half Cellar.
Outside Is Driveway,
Garage And An
Enclosed Rear
Garden.

£154,995

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

FOR SALE

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
SOLD SUBJECT
TO CONTRACT IN
UNDER 5 WEEKS!

MORE PROPERTIES
REQUIRED!

BUYERS WAITING!

£319,995

FOR SALE

LINDEN CLOSE, BENTLEY
Two Bed Maisonette Comprising
Of Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway,
Modern Fitted Breakfast Kitchen,
Spacious Lounge Diner, Two Double
Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/
Glazing, Electric Heating, Secure
Fenced Communal Area To The
Rear. Great FTS Or STL Investment.

£82,995

FOR SALE

HAWKSWELL DR, W'HALL
One Bedroom End Townhouse
Located On Hadley Heath Estate
Having Lounge, Modern Fitted
Kitchen, Double Bedroom,
Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Off
Road Parking And Enclosed Garden,
Ideal First Time Buy MUST VIEW.

£64,995

FOR SALE

TREETOPS DR, WILLENHALL
One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises
Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen,
Bedroom And Bathroom. Also
Having Full UPVC Double Glazing
And Gas Central Heating. Outside
There Is A Garage In Separate
Block.

£67,500

REDUCED

FOR SALE

CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION
One Bed Mid Town House.
Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted
Kitchen, Double Bedroom And
Bathroom. Outside There Is A
Gravelled Garden, Allocated Parking
Space And Garage In A Separate
Block.

£83,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Modern First Floor
Apartment Having Communal
Entrance Hall, Private Hallway,
Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen,
Two Double Bedrooms, Master With
En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Electric
Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And
Allocated Parking.

£88,000

FOR SALE

CHAUCER AVE, SHORT HEATH
Two Bed Mid Terraced Property
Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge,
Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area,
Two Double Bedrooms, Family
Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/
Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£89,995

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

TEMPLE RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Mid Terraced
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Lounge, Separate Dining Room,
Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility
Room, Ground Floor W.C. And
Family Bathroom. Garden To The
Rear.

£89,995

FOR SALE

REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM
Immaculately Presented One Bed
Ground Floor Flat Having Entrance
Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted
Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern
Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing,
C/Heating, Rear Garden And
Driveway.

£89,995

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

BLENHEIM RD, SUMMER HAYES
Immaculately Presented Two Bed
Ground Floor Flat Comprising Of
Entrance Porch/Utility Area, Lounge,
Kitchen, Hall, Two Bedrooms And
Modern Bathroom. Outside There Is
An Enclosed Rear Garden & Further
Lawn Area To The Side.

£95,000

FOR SALE

BLOXWICH RD, LEAMORE
Spacious Two Bed Semi Having
Entrance Porch, Entrance Hallway,
Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted
Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms,
Family Bathroom With Separate
Shower Cubicle, UPVC D/Glazing,
C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden
And Off Road Parking.

£95,000

FOR SALE

POPLAR AVE, BENTLEY
Three Bedroom End Town House.
Comprises Of Lounge, Modern
Fitted Kitchen/Diner, W.C. And
Shower Room. Double Glazing And
Gas Central Heating. Front & Rear
Gardens.

£99,995

FOR SALE

COLTHAM RD, SHORT HEATH
Well Presented Three Bedroom
Mid Terraced House. Comprises
Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/
Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom And
Three Bedrooms. Off Road Parking
To The Front And Garden To The
Rear.

£100,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

LIME AVE, BENTLEY
Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
Having Lounge, Dining Room Fitted
Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Fitted
Shower Room, Separate W.C., D/
Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road
Parking And Rear Garden.

OIEO £100,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

BENTON CL, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bedroom
Mid Town House. Comprises Of
20ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen,
Lobby With Both W.C. And Storage
Cupboard, Three Bedrooms And
Family Bathroom. Also Benefits
From UPVC Double Glazing And
Gas Central Heating.

£102,000

FOR SALE

LEACROFT, NEW INVENTION
Three Bed End Town House
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen,
Lean-To, Two Brick Built
Outbuildings And Family Bathroom.
Off Road Parking To Front And
Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£105,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

WALKERS FOLD, SHORT HEATH
Two Bed Mid Town House
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern
Shower Room. Outside Are Two
Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear
Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£107,500

FOR SALE

THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Modern Two Bed Semi Having
Lounge With Open Plan Staircase,
Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two
Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/
Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved
Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off
Road Parking For Two Vehicles And
A Private Enclosed Rear Garden.

£110,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH
Well Presented Two Bedroom Semi-
Detached Bungalow Comprising Of
Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted
Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms,
Fitted Wet Room, D/Glazing, C/
Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden And
Front Garden With Driveway. Viewing
Highly Recommended.

OIEO £110,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

FOR SALE

HAWTHORNE PLACE, BENTLEY
Two Bed Semi Having Entrance
Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner,
Lean-To With W.C. & Outhouse.
Family Bathroom To First Floor. D/
Glazing & C/Heating. Gardens To
The Front And Rear.

£115,000

FOR SALE

STUBBINGTON CL, PORTOBELLO
Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises
Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge,
Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double
Bedrooms Both With Fitted Wardrobes
And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double
Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached
Garage And Driveway. Good Transport
Links To Wolverhampton, Willenhall,
Bristol & Walsall.

£125,000

FOR SALE

RIDING WAY, SHORT HEATH
Extended Three Bedroom Semi
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Lounge With Separate Dining Area,
Fitted Kitchen And Shower Room.
Outside There Are Front & Rear
Gardens, Ample Off Road Parking
And Garage. Cul-de-sac Location

£129,995

FOR SALE

SANDRINGHAM AVE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached Property
Having Entrance Porch, Entrance
Hallway, Spacious Through Lounge/
Diner, Extended Kitchen, Refitted
Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms,
Family Bathroom, Hardwood D/
Bathroom, C/Heating, Garage &
Driveway.

£130,000

FOR SALE

WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH
Extended Two Bedroom Semi
Detached Property Comprising
Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted
Kitchen Diner, Two Bedrooms,
Family Bathroom And Detached
Garage, Part D/Glazing & C/
Heating.

£130,000

FOR SALE

WHITEWOOD GLADE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached House
Comprising Of Spacious Lounge,
Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen And
Family Bathroom. Gardens To Front
And Rear, Driveway Parking And
Detached Garage.

£137,500

FOR SALE

BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD
Modern Three Bedroom End
Town House Comprising Of Fitted
Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite,
Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/
Heating, Front & Rear Gardens,
Garage & Off Road Parking. Viewing
Recommended!

£137,500

FOR SALE

ALVINGTON CL, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance
Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room,
Inner Hall, Ground Floor W.C.,
Extended Kitchen With Dining Area,
Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/
Glazing, Off Road Parking And Rear
Garden.

£155,000

REDUCED

FOR SALE

BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, W'HALL
Extended Five Bed Semi Detached
Having Entrance Porch & Hall,
Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen,
Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C.,
Additional Sitting Room And Family
Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating,
Driveway.

£160,000

FOR SALE

SHEPVELL GREEN, W'HALL
Modern Three Bed Detached Dormer
Bungalow. Ground Floor Comprises Of
Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen,
Bedroom And Family Bathroom. First
Floor There Are A Further Two Bedrooms
And Second Family Bathroom. Outside
Is A Detached Garage, Front Garden
And Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£164,995

FOR SALE

ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL
Five Bed Semi Detached House
Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining
Room, Family Bathroom, Separate
Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/
Heating, Integral Garage, Front
& Rear Gardens. Cul-De-Sac
Location.

£167,995

FOR SALE

THE GREEN, DARLSTON
Four Bed Detached House
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Ground
Floor W.C., Rear Hallway, En-Suite
Shower To Master Bed & Family
Bathroom. Rear Garden & Off Road
Parking.

£169,995

REDUCED

FOR SALE

LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Detached Bungalow
Having Through Lounge/Diner,
Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family
Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/
Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear
Garden & Driveway.

£180,000

VIEWING ADVISED

FOR SALE

BUSH STREET, DARLSTON
Three Bed Cottage Style Detached
Comprising Of Entrance Hall,
Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two
Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C.
To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated
Parking, Double Garage With Office
& Garden.

£200,000

Willenhall 01902 606595

www.prestige-estatesuk.com





7 Queens Parade Bloxwich,
Walsall WS3 2EX
01922 711444

Have you
seen the new
Goodchilds Mini?



**Bloxwich
WOODALL STREET**
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Kitchen•Lounge•Diner
• Bathroom•En-Suite
• Gardens•Garage

£675 PCM



**Willenhall
BALMORAL DRIVE**
• THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
• D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen
• Family Bathroom•Enclosed Rear Garden

£575 PCM



**Bloxwich
WOODALL STREET**
• Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Kitchen • Lounge/Diner
• Guest W.C • Family Bathroom
• Front & Rear Gardens

£550 PCM



**Leamore
EAGLEWORKS DRIVE**
• Two Bedroom Apartment
• Fully Furnished•Lounge•Kitchen
• En-Suite Shower Room
• Bathroom•D.Glazing & Gas Heating

£525 PCM



**Walsall
MANORHOUSE CLOSE**
• Two Bed Apartment
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Bathroom
• Double Glazing•Heating
• Allocated Parking•Ensuite

£500 PCM



**Willenhall
SQUIRES GROVE**
• Two Bedroom Apartment
• Lounge/Diner • Fitted Kitchen
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite
• Bathroom • Double Glazing

£495 PCM



**Bloxwich
WEST STREET**
• Two Bedroom Terraced Property
• D.Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Utility Room
• Downstairs Bathroom

£495 PCM



**Walsall
WEST BROMWICH ROAD**
• One Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Open Plan Lounge/Diner
• Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom
• Gardens•Gas Central Heating

£475 PCM



**Walsall
BORNEO STREET**
• Three Bedroom Terrace
• 2 Reception Rooms•Dining Room
• Kitchen•Family Bathroom
• Double Glazing•Rear Garden

£475 PCM



**Walker Road
GUILD COURT**
• Two Bedroom Apartments
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Bathroom • Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing • Allocated Parking

£450 PCM



**Blakenhall Heath
CHURCH WALK, PARISH COURT**
• Two Bed Apartment
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Family Bathroom•D.Glazing
• Off Road Parking

£450 PCM



**Walsall
DEERMEAD COURT**
• Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower
• Family Bathroom

£450



**Walsall
DICKINSON DRIVE**
• Three Bed End of Terrace
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs W.C.
• Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens

£450 PCM



**Walsall
LINGFIELD COURT**
• One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Family Bathroom
• Electric Heating & Double Glazing

£430 PCM



**Walsall
KENT STREET**
• Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms
• Kitchen•Bathroom
• Rear Garden•DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
HIGH STREET**
• Three Bedroom Flat
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom•DHSS Accepted
• No Pets or Smokers

£425 PCM



**Walsall
WATERFRONT WAY**
• ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR
• Allocated parking•Entrance Hallway
• Family Bathroom•Open Plan Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen•Sorry No DHSS, Pets or

£425 PCM



**Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET**
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Lounge/Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom•DHSS Accepted
• D.Glazing•Electric heating

£400 PCM



**Walsall
CAIRNS STREET**
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• D.Glazing•Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Garden•DHSS Accepted

£400 PCM



**Bloxwich
LIVINGSTONE ROAD**
• Two Bed Flat
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Bathroom•Central Heating
• D.Glazing•Off Road Parking

£395 PCM



**Walsall
BLOXWICH ROAD**
• One & Two Bedroom Flats
• Lounge•Kitchen•Parking
• Gas Central Heating
• DHSS Accepted

From £380 PCM



**Walsall
TAME CLOSE**
• One Bedroom First Floor Flat
• Lounge with Balcony
• Kitchen • Shower Room
• Communal Grounds

£375 PCM



**Walsall
MOAT ROAD**
• Two Bed Flat above retail premises
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Octavia's winning formula

By James Parker

Every once in a while, it's nice to give the system one right on the nose. It doesn't happen often, but when it does it's a sweet feeling.

Imagine getting that feeling every single time you drive your car. That's pretty much the deal with the Skoda Octavia GreenLine. If fuel prices make you feel as if you're being mugged, here's one of the most satisfying legal ways to hit back.

The best thing about this third generation Octavia is that in order to realise these minuscule fuel bills, the car asks very little of you in return.

It's big, it's got an engine that doesn't need help driving the car out of a wet paper bag and it's also even reasonably well equipped.

The Octavia GreenLine is powered by a diesel engine that manages a respectable 110PS, which is actually 5PS more than the otherwise similar 1.6 TDI units found in the rest of the Octavia range. This means it'll get to 62mph in a fraction over 10 seconds and top out at 128mph.

This 1.6-litre diesel engine comes from a tried and tested VW Group family renowned for being smooth, flexible and relaxing to drive. With 250Nm of torque on tap, it's not going to labour, even if you're five-up.

If you're not familiar with this third generation Octavia, then the first thing you'll notice is the fact that it's grown, and by quite some amount. The latest model is 90mm longer and 45mm wider than the second-generation Octavia.

At the same time, the wheelbase has grown by 108mm, mainly benefiting the interior and space on the rear seats. This means the Octavia is now almost as long as a Ford Mondeo and there's genuinely impressive rear seat space.

The boot has increased in space to 590-litres, distancing this MK3 model from its predecessor, a car that competed with typical family hatchbacks like Ford Focus, a model offering just 320 litres under the rear hatch. Now you see how far this current Octavia has stepped up in size.

Estate

Need even more space? Then you can choose an estate variant with a 610-litre cargo area. Despite the notchback design, the standard version of this model remains a five-door car with a massive tailgate.

There's a really crisp, architectural neatness to the exterior design and detailing, with plenty of shape in the flanks, an elegant sweep to the roofline and a refreshing simplicity to the front end. The interior is similarly simple and elegant as a result. Materials quality has improved and there's stacks of clever storage ideas.

Skoda asks just over £20,000 for the Octavia GreenLine hatch, which means that you're looking at just under £2,000 more than you'd pay for an entry-level 1.6 TDI Octavia in base S trim.

Given that you get an additional 14 miles from a gallon of fuel in the GreenLine, you'd have to drive 140,000 miles in it to reap back that additional cost in fuel savings alone.

Still, that doesn't take into account the fact that the GreenLine comes with quite a bit of additional equipment.

It gets acoustic rear parking sensors, dual-zone climate control air conditioning with humidity sensor and control, and cornering front fog lights, none of which you'll find on the S model. In fact it sits somewhere between the SE and the Elegance in Skoda's trim walk up.

Go for the estate version and you're looking at an £800 premium. Whichever bodystyle you select, the cabin is quite low key with black fabric seating, and very little in the way of colour. Safety equipment includes ESP stability control, hill hold control, parking sensors, rest assist, twin front, side and curtain airbags, a driver's knee airbag and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

There aren't too many cars in this size class that can approach the Octavia GreenLine's running costs. The headline figure is that 88.3mpg combined fuel economy figure. On a longer run, it'll better 94mpg and a few hypermiling techniques might well see the car top 100mpg.



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Venga just one of Kia's models to up its game

By Sharon Walters

Kia's good-looking and roomy supermini MPV isn't quite there yet in terms of cabin quality but it isn't far off. Aspects of the interior feel really classy and the folding rear seats work well.

The 1.4-litre CRDi diesel isn't the Venga's best unit but it delivers 63mpg economy with the aid of a standard stop/start system.

As car buyers we like our preconceptions. Without them how could we possibly make sense of the monumental range of choice we're faced with?

There are just too many cars out there and it's really useful if we can dismiss some of them out of hand based on what we think we know about the companies that make them. Now get ready for the bad news, if you don't occasionally revise these prejudices towards certain makes or models, you might end up missing out in a big way. For example and like it or not, anybody looking for a small family car with a diesel engine should at least consider the Kia Venga 1.4 CRDi.

If you're thinking that Kia makes basic, cheap cars that fall below the quality standards set but the big name brands, you've just proven the point about revising those preconceptions from time to time. Much to the consternation of Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Renault and the other companies that UK car buyers gravitate towards by default, Kia has been on the up.

We've seen a concerted effort by the Korean firm to up its game and compete on an equal footing with the big players.

The Venga is a supermini MPV and prime evidence of the progress that has been made. It's built in Europe to European quality standards and designed to European tastes for sale on the European market. As Europeans and with Kia having gone to all this trouble, we really should give it a chance.

It's the diesel Venga we're concerned with here, a model that will be crucial to the car's success in its intended European heartland. The engine is a 1.4-litre CRDi common-rail injection unit with 89bhp at 4,000rpm and 163Nm of torque between 1,750 and 2,750rpm.

Acceleration from 0-62mph takes 14seconds which is far from lively but the engine gives up its power in a smooth manner with good flexibility. It's not the most refined unit, filling the cabin with booming sound when pushed hard and coming over a little coarse on part throttle.

The actual handling of the Venga is worthy of praise with the well-weighted steering provoking crisp responses.

Roundabouts

Don't expect anything too dynamic because this is a taller vehicle than a conventional supermini and its height is felt in corners through a bit of body roll. The chunky steering wheel feels good in the hands and the upright driving position affords good visibility, although the A-pillars do obstruct your view on roundabouts. The ride is comfortable, the suspension taking bumps in its stride, and the Venga generally feels very at home in the urban streets where most owners will use it.

The cabin is what it's all about here and the Venga is certainly roomy with plenty of legroom and a boot of 440-litres. Kia has put particular thought into how owners will accommodate their luggage and the boot area can be extended to 570 litres by sliding the rear seat forward or through the two-tier boot floor, even before you get involved in folding the rear seats down. When you are forced to employ Kia's Fold & Dive seating system, which operates with a reassuring solidity, the 60:40 split rear seats drop to create a flat load floor with a 1,552mm load length and a 1,253 litre capacity.

Kia's quest to enhance the quality of its products has been a successful one and the parts of the Venga that you look at and touch most regularly appear to be a match for the sector's finest.

The design is uncomplicated and there are nice details like the tactile metallic bezels on the main dials and the crisp illumination of the instruments.

Before it began clambering up market, Kia was known for low prices and lots of equipment. You still get a fair bit of kit for your money in the Venga but the prices reflect Kia's desire for parity with mainstream rivals. The trim levels are handily dubbed 1, 2 and 3. The entry-level one featuring basics like electric windows, a CD stereo, the Fold & Dive seating system and a centre armrest. The car comes in a single five-door bodystyle with six-speed gearboxes for the diesel models featured here.

The diesel Vengas come with the EcoDynamics badge on their tailgates which refers to the presence of Kia's EcoDynamics fuel saving technology. The highlight of this is the ISG stop-start system which turns off the engine when the car is stationary and restarts it automatically when it's time to move off. The Venga also has gear-shift indicator lights and low rolling resistance tyres on versions with 15" or 16" wheels. The 1.4 CRDi diesel returns close to 63mpg on the combined cycle with emissions of 117g/km. This doesn't make it the cleanest car in the sector but it comes close.



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Model Shows: Jazz Si Black Special Edition Manual in Crystal Black Pearl at £15,445 On The Road (OTR). Terms & conditions: New retail Jazz registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model & colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers & are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Deposit contribution: £500 Honda deposit contribution on Jazz models (excludes Jazz S & SE grades) purchased through Honda Aspirations. Jazz Si Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on Jazz Si Black Special Edition Manual in Crystal Black Pearl at £15,445 total cash price (& total amount payable) with 25 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with 10 customer deposit + £500 deposit contribution, (£500 total deposit), Amount of Credit £14,945, £365.05 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment of £6,203.75 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 39p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement & you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition & has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book & the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe PLC, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe PLC is authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Warranty: In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. Roadside Assist: In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. The 5 Year Care Package: The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £555 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT, resulting in a £990 saving for the customer) & is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Saddlers defender Purkiss is injured

WALSALL'S pre-season preparations have been dealt a blow after defender Ben Purkiss was ruled out for up to two weeks with an ankle injury.

The 30-year-old suffered damaged ligaments on Monday during the Saddlers' first training session of their week in Exeter – but has admitted relief the injury is not as bad as first feared.

Purkiss was out for the game at Taunton Town and the trip to Torquay United.

It spells frustration for the defender, who misses valuable time in the fight for starting places in the back four.

"There's never a good time to pick up an injury, but especially when you get through the tough bits of the first couple of weeks of pre-season and then this happens," he said. "The problem is with one of the ligaments; it was extremely painful so I was sent for an X-ray which, thankfully, ruled out a fracture. It was one of those things. There was no contact from any other player."

Midfielder Sam Mantom, last year's player of the season, also missed out the match as he struggles to shake off a knee injury that has dogged him since the players returned a fortnight ago.

Dean ready to tinker with tactics

DEAN Smith says he plans tinker about tactically in a bid to give Walsall greater cutting edge this season.

The Saddlers boss is planning to trial several new formations in pre-season after admitting opposition teams had perhaps sussed out his side's game-plan in the closing stages of the last campaign.

On several occasions, particularly at home, the Saddlers found themselves struggling to break down teams who sat deep and the return of just 21 league goals at the Banks's was a record low.

Now the manager wants a Plan B – and maybe even a Plan C. Smith adopted different formations in each half of the 1-1 draw with Taunton Town, adopting a 4-4-2 with a diamond midfield in the opening period before switching to three at the back after the break. He is keen to continue experimenting. "We are looking at a few things," said Smith.

Saints have eye on Vlaar

NEW Southampton boss Ronald Koeman has admitted he wants Villa's Ron Vlaar if Dejan Lovren joins Liverpool.

Vlaar – whose current Villa contract has just a year left to run – has been linked with several clubs after impressing while on international duty with the Netherlands during the World Cup this summer.

Now his fellow Dutchman Koeman, who managed Vlaar during his time at Feyenoord has openly admitted that he would like to link-up with the defender again should Lovren's £20m move to the Reds go through.

Young guns are 'hungry for success'

JAMES BAXENDALE says "young and hungry" Walsall are ready to learn from the mistakes of last season.

The 21-year-old insists there is no shortage of desire to put things right after a disappointing last third to the campaign ended any League One play-off aspirations.

And, even though they are only a fortnight into pre-season training, Baxendale senses a sharp focus in the camp.

"We have a lot of lads who have been here for the past few seasons," he said. "We have learned from our mistakes and I think there is a real hunger in the squad to do that."

"The feeling in the squad is we should be up there and challenging again this season." In looking to strengthen his squad, manager Dean Smith has again put the emphasis on youth.

Keeper Craig MacGillivray and strikers

Football

Tom Bradshaw and Jordan Cook are all in their early 20s, while at 29 defender James O'Connor cannot yet be described as a veteran.

They have joined a team which already had a young spine running through it from keeper Richard O'Donnell, 25, to defender Paul Downing and midfielder Sam Mantom, both 22.

Theoretically, the team should only get better.

"You would like to think so," said Baxendale. "We do have age on our side when it comes to progressing. We have confidence that whatever team is put out there will be able to go and do the job. The future looks bright."

Baxendale admits the arrival of new players and the competition for places it brings has everyone on their toes.

And he believes the fact Smith was able to do business relatively early in the summer has helped with pre-season preparations.

"The lads have come in and everyone is looking really sharp," he said. "The standard in training so far has been really high. The new lads are giving us more – something different to last year."

"When new players come in it makes everyone step on their game – it pushes the rest of us through. The sharpness has been really striking so far, everything is focused on being ready for that first game of the season."

Meanwhile, boss Smith says Walsall have had no enquiries from Huddersfield Town for Mantom and insisted the midfielder is

not for sale. The Saddlers boss claimed it would take an "awful lot of money" for any club to prise the club's current player of the season away.

Reports in Yorkshire had linked Huddersfield boss Mark Robins with a possible move for the 22-year-old and there were even suggestions contact had been made between the two clubs.

But Smith was more than happy to clarify matters when probed on the situation, after watching his side draw 1-1 in a pre-season friendly with Taunton Town.

"We have had zero contact for Sam Mantom and in all honesty he is not for sale," said Smith. "He is our player and a massive, integral part of our team."

"It will take an awful lot of money for anybody to come in for him. We have had no contact from Huddersfield at all."

New look but familiar problems for Saddlers

Taunton Town 1 Walsall 1

FANS who arrived to see the new-look Saddlers at Taunton Town may have later left wondering if anything had changed.

The 1-1 draw in Somerset bore some all-too-familiar hallmarks from the dark, closing days of last season.

Dean Smith's men conceded a freakish goal when Dean Holden headed past his own keeper and then contrived to miss a host of chances before Kieron Morris' late, bullet of a strike rescued a draw.

Results are secondary in pre-season but, even so, a defeat to a team from the eighth tier is always something best kept off the record.

Morris' goal seven minutes from time came as a relief as the hosts looked to have held out.

But Smith didn't agree with the comparisons to last season when the suggestion was put to him.

"I think there is a contrast to last season because we have some new players and some young players who are finding their feet as well," he said.

"They have played in a fatigued state as well because we wanted them to work hard over the last couple of days just to test them out."

The manager has a valid point. After all, neither XI which started each half – as Smith made eight changes at the break – is the one which will take the field against Port Vale 23 days from now.

And it is quite possible the formations used, 4-4-2 with a midfield diamond in the first and 3-4-1-2 in the second, will both be discarded well before then.

The switches in shape were nevertheless interest-

Football

ing, possibly an admission from Smith that his team had become perhaps a little too easy to work out.

But while there is plenty of mitigation, the sheer number of missed chances was cause for frustration.

Best really to miss them when it doesn't matter – though maybe not if you are Javier Lopez Iglesias.

When on trial and fighting for a contract, you really have to hit the target with headers from six yards out, something the 25-year-old Spaniard failed to do midway through the first half when meeting James O'Connor's cross.

That was the visitors' best chance of the opening period, as they peppered Joe Perry in the Taunton goal with shots from distance.

The hosts showed some occasional threat in the final third too and four minutes before the break the unlucky Holden showed Iglesias how it should be done, when he directed Nat Pepperell's cross over the head of Craig MacGillivray and into the top corner of his own net.

Taunton appeared to have weathered the storm when Morris picked up the ball 25 yards out and proceeded to rifle a low drive past Perry.



Kieron Morris, centre, celebrates his goal which saved the Saddlers from a defeat at Taunton Town

Bradshaw ready to fight for promotion

TOM BRADSHAW couldn't have made it any clearer.

"I didn't come here to be in another relegation battle," he said. "I came here to be in a promotion fight."

They are confident words from a 21-year-old striker who believes wholeheartedly the decision he made this summer was the right one.

After more than five years at Shrewsbury Town, Bradshaw opted for a move to Walsall despite the best efforts of his hometown club to keep him at the Greenhous Meadow.

It was a choice he believes was in the best interests of his career.

"I had a long time to make my mind up," he explained. "I spoke to a few people, some family and friends and the former gaffer at

Shrewsbury Mike Jackson.

"I just felt it was better for my career to come to Walsall. Dean (Smith) told me how he believes we can play and what we can do this season. It is great to be on board with that and is what swayed my decision."

"It was a tough decision but I felt the time was right for me. I had been at Shrewsbury since I was 16, I was there for five seasons which is a long time for anyone to stay at a club."

"Once I had spoken to Dean, my mind was made up."

Last season, wasn't the best for Shrewsbury or Bradshaw, the latter spending three months on the sidelines with a knee injury while the former fought – ultimately in vain – against relegation.

Yet despite his young age, in a football

sense he had already been around the block, experiencing the joy of promotion from League Two and the agony of a play-off exit with the Shrews before last year's demotion.

It is those experiences which have convinced him the Saddlers are on course for a strong campaign.

"In my short career so far I have been in the play-offs, won automatic promotion, suffered relegation and another where we narrowly stopped up – I have been through it all," he said.

"From the atmosphere since I have been here I feel we can push on. Why not aim to go up into the Championship?"

"From what I can see we have a good enough team. There will be pressure, of course, but I think we will embrace it."

"Football doesn't finish when you come off the pitch. If you are in a relegation battle you go home and are miserable because you are constantly fighting against the tide."

"This season I think will be different. I think we will be going in the right direction."

Bradshaw, who signed a two-year deal last month, is still getting to know his teammates during pre-season training camp in Exeter.

When asked about his first fortnight at the Banks's, his eyes light up.

"It's been great," he said. "I feel I have settled in really quickly. It's a great style of play here."

There will be extra focus on the Saddlers' front line this pre-season after their own troubles in front of goal last term.

Sneekes will start reign with Frickley

RICHARD SNEEKES will start his reign as Rushall Olympic manager with a trip to Frickley Athletic on August 16.

The Evo-Stik Premier Division fixtures have been released and Sneekes' first home game in charge will be the visit of Witton Albion on August 19.

Derbies against Stourbridge and Halesowen feature within the first month and there is also a New Year's Day home clash against the Glassboys.

The campaign ends with a trip to Ashton United on April 25.

Chasetown have been handed a busy start to the new Evo-Stik First Division South season with two games in the first three days.

The Scholars start with a trip to Gresley on August 16 before going to Romulus 48 hours later. The festive period includes derbies against Stafford Rangers and Tividale and they end with a trip to Kidsgrove on August 25.

Stafford Rangers will kick-off their Evo-Stik League First Division South campaign at Carlton Town on August 16. The clash will be boss Neil Kitching's first competitive game in charge since taking over this summer.

The Marston Road men will then have back-to-back home games with Norton United and Mick-leover Sports the visitors on August 19 and 23 respectively.

The festive period includes games against Market Drayton, Chasetown and Leek as well as a trip to newly-promoted Tividale.

Rushall

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Aug 23 Ramsbottom(H)
Aug 25 Stourbridge(A)
Aug 30 Skel-sdale(H)

Sep 02 Barwell(A)
Sep 06 Curzon Ash(A)
Sep 08 Halesowen(H)
Sep 16 Grantham(A)
Sep 20 Kings Lynn(H)
Sep 27 Matlock(A)

Oct 04 Ilkeston FC(A)
Oct 07 Belper Town(H)
Oct 11 Workington(H)
Oct 14 Marine(A)
Oct 18 Whitby Town(H)
Oct 21 Halesowen(A)
Oct 25 FC Utd of Manchester(A)
Oct 28 Barwell(H)

Nov 04 Witton Alb(A)
Nov 08 Buxton(H)
Nov 18 Grantham(H)
Nov 22 Stamford(H)
Nov 29 Nantwich(A)

Dec 06 Ashton Utd(H)
Dec 13 Ramsbottom(A)
Dec 20 Frickley Ath(H)
Dec 26 Trafford(A)

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Jan 10 Ilkeston FC(H)
Jan 17 Workington(A)
Jan 24 Marine(H)
Jan 31 Whitby Town(A)

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Feb 14 Curzon Ash(H)
Feb 21 Blyth Spars(H)
Feb 28 Kings Lynn(A)

Mar 07 Matlock(H)
Mar 14 Blyth Spars(A)
Mar 28 Stamford(H)

Apr 04 Skel-dale Utd(A)
Apr 06 Trafford(H)
Apr 11 Buxton(A)
Apr 18 Nantwich(H)
Apr 25 Ashton Utd(A)

SPORT

Young guns
Players are hungry to
grab success
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New and old
Saddlers' new line up
has familiar problems
Page 43



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Taylor is getting where he wants to be

ANDY TAYLOR is getting closer to where he wants to be, in more ways than one. Physically, spiritually and even geographically, the Saddlers' back is feeling content.

Free of the nagging injuries which blighted his pre-season 12 months ago, the 28-year-old has his eyes firmly on the future after signing a two-year deal earlier this month.

For almost two months, from the end of last season, supporters had pondered whether the former Blackburn Rovers man would stay or go. In reality, there was only one place Taylor wanted to be – it was merely a case of doing his homework.

"It was really just a case of sorting everything out off the pitch, family wise," he explains. "I have said from day one I do really enjoy the football at Walsall and I enjoy the way the manager works."

"It is a really progressive club, going in the right direction and it is good to be part of it. It was just a case of sorting things out with family. Once that was done I was happy to sign."

As is always the case when key players are out of contract, Taylor was linked to a different club almost every week. There were, he admits, other options.

Dean positive about tour

WALSALL boss Dean Smith has hailed their pre-season Devon trip a success despite being handed injury headaches.

Defender Ben Purkiss and forward Jordan Cook both picked up ankle injuries during the Saddlers' week in the south west.

While Purkiss is expected to return within a couple of weeks, the extent of Cook's injury is yet to be established.

But Smith remains philosophical and believes the week as a whole was hugely beneficial to both building team spirit and helping new players like Cook, Tom Bradshaw, Craig MacGillivray and James O'Connor bond with the rest of the squad.

"In terms of fitness work it has been really beneficial and also simply getting together," said Smith.

O'Donnell vows to be even better this season

WALSALL keeper Richard O'Donnell has vowed to be even better this season after claiming he is fitter and stronger than ever before.

The 25-year-old flourished during his first year with the Saddlers, making huge strides as the campaign progressed to the point he ended it by being named players' player of the season.

But O'Donnell, who signed 12 months ago after a successful trial, has no intention of resting on his laurels and believes there are still plenty of areas where he can improve. "I think that is the one thing I have

Football

looked at over the summer," he said. "I've come back in good shape and I want to become even more athletic and agile."

"I feel fitter and stronger than I ever have before. Last season went really well but there are still areas where I need to improve."

"I feel better than I ever have before and I know I need to keep going and stay focused on my game, as does every member of the squad."

O'Donnell had been released by Chesterfield when he found his way to the Saddlers last summer, initially being invited in for a trial by then new goalkeeping coach Neil Cutler before earning a contract.

He credits Cutler for playing a key role in his development while at the Banks's, having first met the one-time Albion and Villa stopper when they attended the same coaching course.

After being an ever-present last term, this year O'Donnell will face a new challenge for the No.1 jersey from 21-year-old Craig MacGillivray, signed this summer

from non-league Harrogate Town.

O'Donnell has been impressed by his new team-mate.

"As a young lad who has come in from the non-league scene he has looked really good," he said.

"There is still plenty for him to work on but then there is plenty for me to work on too."

"It's good that we are working every day with Cuts (Cutler) as that will only improve our game. Craig seems to be settling in really well, as have the other lads who have joined."

Wood's double fightback

Walsall Wood 3 Rushall Olympic 2
WOOD came from behind twice, only going ahead in the 83rd minute to exact some form of revenge for last seasons Walsall Senior Cup defeat.

A poor crossfield defensive pass was intercepted by Marshall, his powerful low drive was pushed away by Mario Kiesel, Zac Martin first to react to slot home from close range.

The lead lasted less than a minute, Jenkins was penalised for handling outside his area. The central free kick in the D floated into the top left hand corner by Harry Harris to bring the scores level.

Two minutes into the second half the Pies were back in front as a slide rule pass put Aaron Farrell in on the goal, to calmly slot the ball into the far corner of the net.

Ryan Wood scored next with an acrobatic overhead kick that just beat the outstretched hand of Chris Gemmell. The winner came in the 83rd minute, Luke Adams powering forward to find Harris on the left of box, he cut inside his marker and his low cross was tucked away by McGhee.

Smith's plans to cover Cook injury

DEAN SMITH will target further forward additions as Walsall anxiously wait to discover how serious Jordan Cook's ankle injury is.

The 24-year-old Saddlers' forward was set to undergo a scan to see the extent of the injury after being stretchered off during 2-1 pre-season friendly defeat at Torquay United.

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SADDLERS FRIENDLIES DOGGED BY INJURIES

Torquay 2 Walsall 1

DEAN SMITH has returned to the Midlands with more injury concerns than he has recently become accustomed.

After Ben Purkiss suffered an ankle injury during the Saddlers' first training session in Exeter, striker Jordan Cook was stretchered off at Torquay on Saturday with a similar complaint.

Cook's yell of pain was audible around Plainmoor when he fell and landed awkwardly after jumping for a high ball.

Player and club will now face an anxious wait to find out the extent of the damage and both will hope that, as is the case with Purkiss, the time out will be measured in weeks rather than months.

The injury came seven minutes from the end of a first half in which little went right for the visitors.

Worryingly

Torquay led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals from Ashley Yeoman and Ryan Bowman and, against a Saddlers defence which looked worryingly fragile at times, it might have been more.

The usual caveats when assessing a pre-season friendly as always apply, but Smith later admitted he was unhappy with what was on show.

Positives came in the way his side responded after the break and in particular the performance of some of the Saddlers' young stars, most notably Reece Flanagan and Amadou Bakayoko, who combined for the latter's late consolation goal. Their progress is, after all, key

Football

to the club's philosophy of bringing through their own players.

On this evidence Flanagan particularly appears to have a bright future. Twice he tested Torquay's second-half goalkeeper Jordan Seabright.

Bakayoko's goal, meanwhile, was a testimony to perseverance as the young striker beat the defence to the ball after a poor first touch before lofting it over Seabright and into the roof of the net.

It wasn't enough to salvage the scoreline, but the development of these players promises to be exciting.

By contrast, there was little to cheer in the opening period with Martin Rice, who began in goal for the hosts, barely needing to break sweat.

Richard O'Donnell had a far busier time and prevented the hosts taking a fourth-minute lead when he tipped over Luke Young's free-kick.

Despite the home side's supremacy, the visitors might have taken the lead had Paul Downing hit the target from 10 yards out.



James O'Connor of Walsall holds off Torquay United's Ashley Yeoman during the pre-season friendly

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